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ABSTRACT

The number of elderly blacks is increasing at a substantially faster rate than either the general population or the elderly white population. Older blacks tend to have lower incomes, greater health problems, and higher incidence of widowhood than comparable whites or younger blacks. The median income of older blacks remained at only two-thirds of the income of elderly whites between 1967 and 1977, a disparity reflecting limited employment opportunities, a higher concentration in lower paying jobs during younger working years, and a higher concentration in jobs not covered by Social Security prior to 1950. In 1977, the average life expectancy of blacks and other minorities at birth was estimated to be shorter than for whites. Compared to their white counterparts, older blacks appear to suffer more from the effects of chronic health conditions and other illnesses and injuries, to be the victims of hyper- tension more frequently, and to have a higher mortality rate. However, for ages 80 and over, the mortality rate of blacks is lower than that of whites. (NBR)

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# CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BLACK ELDERLY-1980: Statistical Reports on Older Americans

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# CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BLACK ELDERLY

BY

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## INTRODUCTION

The size of the Black population grew enormously between 1960 and 1978; however, there was an even greater change in the size of that segment 60 years old and over (an increase of 34.3% vs. 59.8%). These 60+ persons are identified with characteristics such as lower incomes, greater health problems, higher incidence of widowhood, and faster growth rates than comparable Whites or younger Blacks. This report examines these areas along with other demographic, socio-economic, health, and other characteristics of the Black elderly population. It is based primarily on statistics published by the Bureau of the Census, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

All references to elderly or older persons in the report relate to persons 60 years of age and older. These persons are entitled to services under the Older Americans Act. Because of the frequent use of data on persons 65 years old and older, however, this age group is also mentioned. This is the age of eligibility for retirement for many, for full Social Security benefits, for Medicare coverage, and for income tax advantages. Age groups such as those 55, 65, and 75 years of age and over, when used in the text of this report, will be specified to distinguish between the population groups.

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## SIZE OF THE POPULATION

The Bureau of the Census estimated that in 1978 there were 2.8 million Black Americans age 60 and older who constituted 11% of the total Black population and over 8% of all races age 60 and older (Table 1). The Bureau of the Census also estimated 25.5 million Blacks in all, representing 12% of the aggregate population. The aged members of the Black population in the United States comprise a minority within a minority that is continuing to grow and to gain a greater share of the aged population of all races.

The Blacks' share of the total 60+ population of all races in 1978 (8.3%) was 7.3% in 1960, about the same proportions as the 65+ age group but slightly higher than the proportion of Blacks in the 75+ age group for these years. However, elderly Blacks have not yet achieved the same relative proportion to the total population (12%) that the total Blacks have. This disparity can be attributed to the generally higher mortality rates experienced by elderly Blacks over elderly Whites, coupled with the higher fertility rates of Black women compared to Whites.

Proportionately, the older Black population is growing more rapidly than older Whites and younger Blacks. Between 1960 and 1970, the proportionate increase in the size of each of the Black populations age 60+ and 65+ was in excess of 11 percentage points greater than the 20% increase experienced by the total Black population. (The under-60 and under-65 age groups each increased by about 18% during this period.) Furthermore, the growth rate of the 60+ and 65+ Black populations also exceeded that of the corresponding White populations by about 12 percentage points during this decade (Table A), reaching 2.3 million for the 60+ and 1.6 million for 65+ in 1970. Since 1970, the older Black population has continued to climb, increasing in numbers each year by 2% to 4%.

Table A

PERCENT INCREASE OF THE BLACK AND WHITE POPULATIONS 60+, 65+, AND 75+ YEARS OLD, 1960-78

| Race and year | 60+ | 65+ | 75+ |
|---|---|---|---|
| BLACK | | | |
| 1970-'78 ... | 21.0 | 27.8 | 29.7 |
| 1960-70 ... | 32.1 | 30.9 | 38.0 |
| WHITE | | | |
| 1970-78 ... | 15.7 | 18.7 | 18.5 |
| 1960-70 ... | 19.4 | 19.3 | 34.6 |

Source: See Table 1

More than half of both the 60+ and 65+ age groups are women, and the proportion that is female is continuing to grow. Females represented 53% of the 60+ group in 1960, 56% in 1970, and more than 57% in 1978. These proportions were similar for the 65+ population during the same period.

Stated another way, for every 100 Black elderly men in 1978 there were 135 elderly women, not too significantly different from elderly White persons (Table B). In the same year the ratio was higher for the 65+ group (140 women per 100 men)

Since 1960, the female population of the Black elderly experienced a substantially higher growth rate over the male population. The number of women age 60+ increased 73% between 1960 and 1978: 27 percentage points more than that of men. For the 65+ and 75+ age groups, the increases in the female population over that of males during the same period (1960-78) were 32 and 49 percentage points higher, respectively.

Projections

For the future, we can expect a continuing increase in the number of older Black men and women. The Bureau of the Census has projected that by the year 2000 there will be over 4 million Black persons 60+ years old, and over 3 million 65+ years old. These figures represent increases of 48% and 53%, respectively, from 1978. If these increases are realized they will exceed the rates of growth of the 60+ White population by 26 percentage points and the 65+ age group by 24 points. The ratio of older Black women to older Black men will also continue to increase. For the 60+ group, the ratio will increase from 135 to 139 women per 100 men between 1978 and 2000, with a greater disparity among the 65+ group. The ratio of Black women to men age 65 and over will continue to be lower than for comparable Whites by the year 2000.

Geographic Distribution

The geographic concentrations of elderly Blacks and Whites differ. White persons age 65 and over are evenly distributed among the four major regions, except the West where less than a sixth live. Older Blacks are more prevalent in the South. Three-fifths of Blacks 65 years old and older were living in southern States in 1977 (Table C).

In terms of numbers, more than half of elderly Blacks and also of elderly White persons lived in just 10 States in 1970 about 56% of each group. Of these 10 States, California, the most populous in terms of total population, had the smallest proportion of older Blacks (4.7%) and New York, the second most populous State, had the largest proportion of older Blacks (7.6%), followed by Texas, the third most populous State, with 7.0% (Table D).

Table B

THE OLDER POPULATION 60+ AND 65+ YEARS OLD, 1970 to 2000

| Race and year | 60+ | | | | 65+ | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total (000) | Men (000) | Women (000) | Women per 100 men | Total (000) | Men (000) | Women (000) | Women per 100 men |
| BLACK | | | | | | | | |
| 2000 | 4,116 | 1,722 | 2,394 | 139 | 3,037 | 1,232 | 1,805 | 147 |
| 1980 | 2,932 | 1,248 | 1,685 | 135 | 2,078 | 861 | 1,217 | 141 |
| 1978 | 2,782 | 1,186 | 1,598 | 135 | 1,989 | 828 | 1,162 | 140 |
| 1970 | 2,300 | 1,012 | 1,288 | 127 | 1,556 | 673 | 883 | 131 |
| WHITE | | | | | | | | |
| 2000 | 36,982 | 15,442 | 21,540 | 139 | 28,155 | 11,232 | 16,923 | 151 |
| 1980 | 31,419 | 13,259 | 18,160 | 137 | 22,580 | 9,113 | 13,467 | 148 |
| 1978 | 30,344 | 12,829 | 17,516 | 137 | 21,800 | 8,815 | 12,985 | 147 |
| 1970 | 26,225 | 11,318 | 14,906 | 132 | 18,373 | 7,649 | 10,723 | 140 |

Source: See Table 1.

## MARITAL STATUS

The general distribution patterns by marital status of the elderly White and Black populations are somewhat different (Table 3). In March 1978, the most common marital status among elderly Black and White men was to be married with wife present. The most common marital status for older Black women was widowhood; but among elderly white women, the proportions who were widowed and married with husband present were about equal. Irrespective of race, women are more likely to be widowed than men. This stems primarily from longer life expectancy for women, the tendency for women to marry men older than themselves, and the tendency for more men than women to remarry after the death of a spouse.

Elderly Blacks had a greater probability of being widowed and less of a chance of being married than elderly Whites. About three-fifths of the Black men and one-third of the women 60+ years old were married and living with their spouses in 1978 compared to four-fifths of the white men and about one-half of the White women.

Table C

OLDER POPULATION BY REGION, MARCH 1978

(Data exclude persons in institutions)

| Region | Black | | White |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | 65+ | 65+ |
| Total (000)..... | 24,710 | 1,930 | 20,313 |
| Percent ..... | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Northeast..... | 17.7 | 15.3 | 25.5 |
| North Central. | 20.0 | 16.4 | 28.0 |
| South..... | 53.3 | 60.2 | 30.7 |
| West..... | 9.1 | 8.1 | 15.8 |

Note: Percents may not add to total because of rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, Number 119.

Table D

TEN STATES WITH LARGEST PERCENTAGES OF 60+ POPULATION IN THE U.S., BY RACE, 1970

| Black | | White | |
|---|---|---|---|
| U.S. total.... | 100.0 | U.S. total.... | 100.0 |
| New York..... | 7.6 | New York..... | 10.1 |
| Texas..... | 7.0 | California.... | 9.2 |
| Georgia..... | 5.7 | Pennsylvania.. | 6.6 |
| Louisiana..... | 5.6 | Illinois..... | 5.5 |
| Alabama..... | 5.3 | Ohio..... | 5.1 |
| Illinois..... | 5.2 | Texas..... | 4.9 |
| North Carolina | 5.1 | Florida..... | 4.8 |
| Mississippi... | 4.9 | Michigan..... | 3.8 |
| Pennsylvania.. | 4.9 | New Jersey.... | 3.6 |
| California.... | 4.7 | Massachusetts. | 3.3 |

Source: See Table 2.

As expected, the likelihood of being widowed increases with age for both sexes (Table 4). For example, the proportion of widows among Black females rises from 13% in the 45-54 age group to 78% for the 75+ age group. This proportion is higher for Black females than for Whites in each of the age groups, particularly in the younger ages.

## LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Proportionately, there was little difference in the living arrangements of elderly Blacks and Whites--about a third lived alone or with nonrelatives (32% of Blacks vs. 28% of Whites) and two-thirds lived in family settings (68% of Blacks vs. 72% of Whites) as of March 1978 (Table 5). However, about 29% of elderly Black family heads were women compared to only 11% of comparable White family heads.

Although most older Blacks were living in their own homes, the chance of Whites in this age group doing so was greater than for Blacks, eight out of 10 for elderly White persons compared to 6 out of 10 for elderly Blacks (Table E). Elderly Blacks were thus more prone to live in renter occupied housing units than comparable Whites.

Elderly Blacks who are heads of families tend to have a greater proportion of young family members living in their households than their White counterparts (Table 6). Excluding the family heads, about two-fifths of all members of families headed by elderly Black females were under 21 years old compared to about 16% for members of families headed by older White females in this age group. For Black families headed by elderly males, excluding heads and their wives, about 58% of the members were under 21 years old, whereas for comparable White families 43% of the family members were under 21 years old. The average size of all families headed by elderly Blacks was 3.1 members compared to 2.4 members for White families headed by persons age 60 and over.[1/] The term "family," as defined by the Bureau of the Census, refers to a group of two or more persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such persons are considered as members of the same family. Thus, if the son of the head of the household and the son's wife are in the household, they are treated as part of the head's family.

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1/ Bureau of the Census, unpublished data from the March 1978 Current Population Survey.

Table E

PERSONS 60+ YEARS OLD BY TENURE OF HOUSING UNITS, MARCH 1978

| Tenure of housing unit | Black | | White | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number (000) | Percent distribution | Number (000) | Percent distribution |
| Persons in all occupied housing units..... | 2,721 | 100.0 | 28,896 | 100.0 |
| Persons in owner occupied housing units..... | 1,706 | 62.7 | 22,538 | 78.0 |
| Persons in renter occupied housing units..... | 1,015 | 37.3 | 6,358 | 22.0 |

Source: Bureau of the Census, unpublished data from the March 1978 Current Population Survey.

## LABOR FORCE

About one-fourth of elderly Blacks and Whites were in the civilian labor force in 1978 (Table 7). Among men, the participation rate for Blacks and Whites in the 60+ and 65+ age groups was about the same and for Black men age 55+ working and actively looking for work it was 3 percentage points higher than for corresponding Whites. The proportion of Black women in the labor force exceeded that of White women by about 3 percentage points for each of the three age groups.

Labor force participation data are not available for Blacks separately from other racial minorities prior to 1972. However, since Blacks constitute about 90% of the minority population, labor force data for elderly minorities adequately represent the experience of elderly Blacks. The labor force participation rate for older (65+) women remained relatively constant over the past two decades, with the rate for minority women slightly above that for White women. In 1978, the rate for minority women of this age group was 10.7%, compared to 8.1% for White women.

The labor force participation rates for older minority and White men have been quite similar over the past two decades. Unlike women, however, the rates for men dropped considerably during the late 1950's and early 1960's, from 40% to 27%, levelled off at about 27% during the mid and late 1960's, and then dropped to about 20% in the early 1970's. For the past several years, the rates for minority and White men 65+ years old have remained near their 1978 levels of 21.3% and 20.4%, respectively.

Among 65+ persons in the labor force, which include the employed and the unemployed who are actively looking for work, many Black men and women were unable to share in the traditional way of escaping the hardships of poverty in our work-oriented society through employment. In 1978, Black men 65+ years old had an unemployment rate of 6.5% compared to 3.9% for White men. Black and White women in this age group had unemployment rates of 4.8% and 3.7%, respectively.

Older Blacks are concentrated in lower-paying jobs. For example, the 1970 census enumeration revealed that about two-fifths of employed Blacks age 60 and over were service workers (including private household workers) as compared to only one-sixth of elderly persons of other races. Over two-thirds of the employed Black women and over a fourth of the men were in these occupations.[2/] The figures reflect the limited opportunities of this older group during younger working years. Possibly many factors beyond the control of these older persons, such as discrimination--because of age, race and sex--and geographical mobility, affect their ability to find work and earn a decent living.

## INCOME AND POVERTY

### Income[3/]

Because of the income-sharing arrangements commonly found among family units, family income data reveal a better picture of the economic position of older persons than personal income data. However, it is important to keep in mind that members of a family may consist of totally dependent persons, adult wage earners, retired older persons, or a combination of with such status. It is also important to remember that married couples related to the head of a family are included in the head's family and are not classified as separate families. As a result, family money income data should be cautiously interpreted both because the family members may not always form a meaningful economic unit and because the designation of a person as head of a family in joint households may be quite arbitrary. Therefore, money income for a family headed by a person age 65 and over may include substantial amounts of income received by adult children and other family members.

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2/ Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, Final Report PC(1)-D1, Table 226.

3/ Information on income in this report represents money income. Total money income is the sum of amounts received as wage or salary income, self-employment income (gross receipts minus operating expenses), and income other than earnings. These incomes represent the amount received before deductions for personal income taxes, social security, bond purchases, union dues, etc.

Of family members with income, older persons, especially retired older persons, are likely to have the smallest amount. Furthermore, elderly family members who are not classified as family heads are in effect lost in an analysis using family income data analyzed by age of the family head.

In 1977, half of the 679 thousand Black families with heads 65 years old or over had incomes of less than $6,066--$3,392 less than the median[4/] for comparable White families (Table 8). This median income figure ($6,066) represented an increase of $256 or 4.4% over 1976. However, after adjusting for the rise of 6.5% in prices during this period, the median income actually dropped by 2%, resulting in a loss of purchasing power (Table 11). During the decade of 1967 to 1977, the real purchasing power of these Black families rose 28%, about the same rate as for comparable White families. At the end of the 1967-77 decade the real income of Black families headed by persons age 65+ was only 64% of the income of corresponding White families, the same proportion as at the beginning of that decade.

From 1976 to 1977 Blacks age 65 and over living alone or with non-relatives (unrelated individuals) had an increase in median income about double the percentage increase experienced by families headed by Blacks in the same age group, but their gain in purchasing power during this period was only 2% (Table 12). During the 1967-77 decade, the purchasing power of Black and also White unrelated individuals age 65 and over increased 37% and 43%, respectively. These increases in real income surpassed those of Black and White families with heads age 65 and over; however, the gap between Black unrelated individuals and their White counterparts in terms of dollars of purchasing power was widened.

## Income Distribution

Blacks 65 years of age and older were more concentrated at the lower end of the income scale than elderly Whites. In 1977, approximately 79,000 or 12% of Black families headed by persons age 65 or over had incomes of less than $3,000, and 176,000 or about a fourth had less than $4,000 (Table 10). These proportions were more than three times those for corresponding White families. About half of these Black families reported 1977 incomes under $6,000 compared to only about a fourth of White families with heads 65+ years old. As the income scale increased above $7,000, a higher proportion of White families than of Black families headed by persons age 65 and over had incomes which fell within these higher income intervals.

Among unrelated individuals 65+ years old, who have much lower incomes than elderly families regardless of race, about three-quarters of Blacks had incomes below $4,000 (compared to one-half for Whites) and nine-tenths were below $6,000 (compared to three-fourths for Whites).

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4/ "Median" income is that amount which divides an income distribution into two equal parts. Half of the families or unrelated individuals report incomes below the median and half report incomes above the median.

Families headed by Blacks age 65+ and unrelated individuals in this age group have become more concentrated at the lower end of the income scale in recent years relative to comparable Whites. For example, even though the proportion of Black families with heads 65+ years old that reported incomes below $3,000 has declined from 57% to 12% between 1967 and 1977, these Black families were four times as likely to be in this income group as corresponding White families in 1977, compared to only 1.6 times in 1967. The trend has been similar for Black unrelated individuals, though not quite as pronounced.

BLS Budgets for Retired Couples

If we use the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) three hypothetical budgets for an urban retired couple as a standard to measure economic well-being, it can be seen that the 1977 incomes of nearly two-thirds of Black couples with husbands 65 years old and over and about two-fifth of comparable White couples fall short of the autumn 1977 cost of the BLS budget estimates for a modest but adequate "intermediate" standard of living (Tables 13 and 14). The intermediate budget cost for autumn 1977 for a retired couple was $7,198. The lower budget was $5,031 and the higher was $10,711. However, it should be remembered that families for which these budgets were constructed consist of a husband age 65 or over and his wife. They are assumed to be self-supporting and living in an urban area, in reasonably good health with an adequate inventory of household goods and furnishings, and are able to take care of themselves.

The proportion of Black couples in this age group with incomes below each of the three budget levels declined somewhat between 1975 and 1977. For example, the proportion with incomes below the lower budget level declined from 51% to 40%; for White couples, the proportion remained relatively constant over this period. However, the proportions of these Black couples below the 1977 intermediate budget (65%) and the 1977 higher budget (82%) were not much different than in 1975.

Type of Income

The complexity of data on the income of families headed by older persons adds difficulty to interpretation of these figures. For example, data on the type and amount of income received by older family members versus the income received by younger members in the same family are not separately available. However, the types of incomes received by families headed by older Blacks reflect the lower income of these families compared to corresponding White families.

Black families with heads 65 years old or over were more likely than their White counterparts to receive wage and salary income Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and public assistance in 1977 (Table 15). Income from earnings (including self-employment) was reported by about three-fifths of these Black families, compared to about a half (47%) of White families. The proportion of such Black families receiving SSI was four times greater than corresponding White families (29% vs. 7%), and was ten times greater for public assistance.

On the other hand, only one-third of Black families headed by persons age 65+ received income from assets, pensions, annuities, and other sources, whereas about four-fifths of White families with heads 65+ years old reported such income. Only one-seventh of these Black families who received these types of income relied on such income for half or more of their total income compared to about one-fourth of equivalent White families.

Nearly one-half (46%) of the aggregate income received by Black families with heads in the 65+ age group came from earnings, roughly the same amount (44%) came from transfer income, 5/ and 10% was from all other sources (assets, pensions, etc.). For comparable White families, about one-third of their income came from each of these categories.

Persons age 65+ who lived alone or with nonrelatives relied much less on earnings income. Only one-sixth of these individuals received such income, and earnings provided only one-eighth of their total income, regardless of race. Almost all individuals of both races received transfer income. However, these sources constituted three-fourths of the aggregate income of Black individuals compared to one-half for Whites. As with families, the proportion of aggregate income from assets and pensions was much less for these elderly Black individuals (14%) than for White individuals in the same age group (38%).

The lesser likelihood of Blacks receiving pension income was the subject of a recent article. 6/ The data in the article are from 1969 and 1975 interviews of the Social Security Administration's Retirement History Study. Data from the earlier interviews focus on pension coverage of workers 58-63 years old in 1969. From the later interviews, when the respondents were 64-69 years old, the data focus on receipt of pension income among those workers with pension coverage who were completely retired by 1975.

According to this study, Black workers in 1969 were only half as likely to be covered by pensions as were White workers (20% vs. 43%). Furthermore, of the Black workers covered by pensions who completely retired between 1969 and 1975, only 52% reported receipt of pension income in 1974 compared to 77% for White workers.

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5/ Social Security, SSI, public assistance, unemployment and workmen's compensation, and veterans' payments.

6/ Gayle B. Thompson, "Black-White Differences in Private Pensions: Findings from the Retirement History Study." Social Security Bulletin, Vol.42, No. 2, February 1979.

Black workers in the study possessed fewer of the job characteristics for which there is a high probability of pension coverage. For example, Black workers were less likely to be employed in manufacturing industries, were more likely to be in lower-paying non-professional or non-technical jobs, and had worked fewer years in pension-covered occupations than Whites. The author noted that "workers of both races with the same combination of job characteristics are almost equally likely to have been covered by a private pension," and further noted that greatly expanded pension coverage of Black workers "will come only with movement into jobs where private pensions are prevalent." 7/

Poverty

Among older families in the United States who enjoy incomes at the upper end of the income scale, some aged Blacks are, of course, included. Yet families headed by Blacks 60+ years old made up nearly three-tenths (29%) of all families headed by persons 60 years old and over counted as poor in 1977, a proportion substantially higher than the 1-in-12 frequency of these families among all families headed by older persons (Table 16). Blacks also accounted for a large share (18%) of the 2.5 million total older poor living alone or with nonrelatives.

Analysis of the 1977 income data by family status shows that there are proportionately more than four times as many families with elderly Black heads below the poverty level as there are White families. Families headed by Black women in the 60+ age group are five times as likely to be poor as comparable families headed by White women.

More than half (51%) of the nearly 900 thousand elderly Black unrelated individuals were defined as poor in 1977. This percentage is double the proportion for older White individuals.

A considerable larger proportion of elderly Black persons were living below the poverty level than elderly White persons in 1977 (33% vs. 11%). Elderly Blacks represented 22% of all older persons defined as poor and 12% of all Black persons who reported incomes below the poverty level (Table 17).

In terms of marital status, married persons with a spouse present were much less likely to be poor than other elderly persons, regardless of race (Table F).

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7/ Op. cit., page 21.

In 1977, four-tenths of widowed Blacks age 60+ years old reported incomes below the poverty level, in contrast to about one-fourth of those married and living with a spouse. For the older White population, the comparable proportions were 19% for the widowed and 6% for married with spouse present. Among the elderly who were single, about half the Blacks were below the poverty level as opposed to 18% of Whites.

Table F

PERCENT BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN 1977 FOR PERSONS 60+ AND 65+ YEARS OLD, BY MARITAL STATUS, RACE, AND SEX

(Data exclude persons in institutions)

| Race and martial status | 60+ | | | 65+ | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Both sexes | Men | Women | Both sexes | Men | Women |
| BLACK | | | | | | |
| Total | 33.4 | 26.4 | 38.7 | 36.3 | 29.7 | 41.2 |
| Single | 50.0 | # | # | 44.4 | # | # |
| Married | 27.5 | 25.1 | 30.9 | 32.0 | 29.9 | 34.6 |
| Spouse present | 23.8 | 23.2 | 24.6 | 27.1 | 27.5 | 26.4 |
| Spouse absent | 46.9 | 35.4 | 62.9 | 56.0 | 42.3 | # |
| Widowed | 39.6 | 27.4 | 42.8 | 40.6 | 27.7 | 44.2 |
| Divorced | 33.1 | 19.0 | 47.6 | 32.0 | # | # |
| WHITE | | | | | | |
| Total | 10.9 | 7.9 | 13.2 | 11.9 | 8.3 | 14.4 |
| Single | 17.5 | 19.8 | 15.9 | 17.9 | 20.4 | 16.5 |
| Married | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.6 | 6.5 | 6.8 |
| Spouse present | 5.6 | 5.8 | 5.4 | 6.1 | 6.1 | 6.2 |
| Spouse absent | 26.4 | 23.2 | 29.8 | 23.9 | 24.0 | 23.9 |
| Widowed | 18.5 | 13.2 | 19.4 | 18.5 | 13.4 | 19.4 |
| Divorced | 19.5 | 14.3 | 23.0 | 20.2 | 14.0 | 23.7 |

# Base less than 75,000.

Note: Persons as of March 1978.

Source: Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 119, and unpublished data from the March 1978 Current Population Survey.

## Poverty by Region

The poor live every place, but older persons in the South are more likely to be poor than those in other regions of the Nation. The 1977 estimates revealed that about a third (35%) of Blacks age 65 or over living in a family setting in the South were poor and 62% of those living alone or with nonrelatives. For the corresponding White population in the South, less than 10% of persons who were a member of a family and a chird of individuals were poor (Table G).

Table G

POVERTY STATUS IN 1977 FOR PERSONS
65+ YEARS OLD, BY RACE, REGION, AND FAMILY STATUS

(Data exclude persons in institutions)

| Race and region | Member of a family | | Unrelated individuals | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number (000) | Poverty rate | Number (000) | Poverty rate |
| BLACK | | | | |
| U.S. total..... | 339 | 27.2 | 362 | 53.0 |
| Northeast..... | 24 | 13.3 | 51 | 44.6 |
| North Central.. | 26 | 14.1 | 63 | 47.8 |
| South..... | 275 | 34.9 | 232 | 62.2 |
| West..... | 14 | 15.2 | 16 | # |
| WHITE | | | | |
| U.S. total ..... | 809 | 5.9 | 1,617 | 24.6 |
| Northeast..... | 95 | 2.7 | 375 | 22.8 |
| North Central.. | 198 | 5.2 | 414 | 21.6 |
| South..... | 405 | 9.2 | 635 | 34.5 |
| West..... | 110 | 5.4 | 193 | 16.6 |

# Base less than 75,000.
Note: Persons as of March 1978.
Source: See Table F.

## EDUCATION

Older Blacks increased their average level of school attainment between 1970 and 1978 but did not gain any ground in educational achievement when compared with older Whites (Table 18). The medium number of years of school completed by older Blacks was only seven-tenths that of elderly Whites in both years. In fact, the difference between elderly Blacks and Whites in median years of school completed actually increased during this period, from 2.4 to 3.2 years.

In 1978, the median number of school years completed was 7.6 years for Black persons age 60 and over compared to 10.8 years for White persons. This was some improvement in the educational attainment of older Blacks since 1970 when half had completed at least 6.6 years of schooling (9.0 years for White persons). About 18% of this older group had received high school diplomas; however, 764 thousand or 28% of older Blacks had no schooling or less than five years of schooling.

Older Blacks in the future will have more formal training than their present counterparts. While only one-sixth of elderly Blacks have completed 12 or more years of school, over one-third of Blacks 45-59 years old and two-thirds of Blacks 25-44 years old have done so. Also, the difference between older Blacks and Whites in median years of school completed will narrow in the future. In 1978, elderly Whites had completed an average of 3.2 years more than Blacks. This difference decreases to 1.9 years for the 45-59 age group, and only 0.4 years for the 25-44 group.

## MORTALITY

Mortality is generally higher among Blacks than among Whites except for ages 80 and over where the mortality rate of Blacks is lower. White females show the lowest mortality rates, followed by White males and Black females. Black males exhibited the highest death rates. Furthermore, mortality rates vary substantially by age (Table H). In 1977 the death rate for elderly Blacks of both sexes was 9% higher than for Whites.

Table H

DEATH RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION FOR PERSONS 45+ YEARS OLD, BY AGE, SEX, AND RACE, 1977

| Age | Black | | White | | Ratio: Black to White | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 45-49 years... | 1,206.2 | 658.4 | 565.1 | 309.7 | 2.13 | 2.13 |
| 50-54 years... | 1,765.1 | 998.5 | 925.2 | 480.1 | 1.91 | 2.08 |
| 55-59 years... | 2,472.3 | 1,397.3 | 1,439.7 | 726.2 | 1.72 | 1.92 |
| 60+ years..... | 5,685.0 | 3,913.8 | 5,215.3 | 3,580.7 | 1.09 | 1.09 |
| 60-64 years. | 3,565.0 | 1,992.0 | 2,337.5 | 1,143.7 | 1.52 | 1.74 |
| 65-69 years. | 3,948.5 | 2,239.2 | 3,434.3 | 1,633.1 | 1.15 | 1.37 |
| 70-74 years. | 6,699.0 | 4,588.5 | 5,231.7 | 2,633.0 | 1.28 | 1.74 |
| 75-79 years. | 9,886.7 | 7,271.0 | 8,099.0 | 4,599.3 | 1.22 | 1.58 |
| 80-84 years. | 9,853.8 | 6,618.5 | 11,610.5 | 7,494.9 | 0.85 | 0.88 |
| 85+ years... | 11,832.8 | 9,035.3 | 17,980.0 | 14,018.0 | 0.66 | 0.64 |

Note: The rates shown in this table were computed using revised population figures for 1977 as published by the Bureau of the Census in Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 800. The rates for Whites differ slightly from those shown in the source cited below, which were computed with provisional population estimates for the White population.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 28, No. 1 Supplement, "Final Mortality Statistics, 1977," and unpublished data.

## LIFE EXPECTANCY

At birth, the average remaining life of Blacks and other races was estimated to be shorter than for White persons in 1977[8/] (Table I). However, men of Black and other races who reach 65 years of age and beyond tend to live longer than their White counterparts; for women of Black and other races, that age is reached at 75 and over.

Table I

AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY AT SELECTED AGES, BY RACE, 1977

| Age | Average number of years of life remaining | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Blacks and others | | | White | | |
| | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female |
| At birth.... | 68.8 | 64.6 | 73.1 | 73.8 | 70.0 | 77.7 |
| 45 years.... | 29.3 | 26.3 | 32.4 | 32.1 | 29.0 | 35.2 |
| 50 years.... | 25.5 | 22.7 | 28.3 | 27.7 | 24.7 | 30.7 |
| 55 years.... | 21.9 | 19.4 | 24.5 | 23.6 | 20.8 | 26.4 |
| 60 years.... | 18.7 | 16.5 | 21.0 | 19.8 | 17.1 | 22.3 |
| 65 years.... | 16.0 | 14.0 | 17.8 | 16.3 | 13.9 | 18.4 |
| 70 years.... | 13.1 | 11.4 | 14.5 | 13.1 | 11.1 | 14.8 |
| 75 years.... | 11.2 | 9.7 | 12.5 | 10.3 | 8.6 | 11.5 |

Source: See Table H.

8/ Life expectancy data for 1977 are not available for Blacks separately. However, Blacks constitute about 90% of "Blacks and other races." Thus, data for Blacks and other races adequately represent the experience of the Black population. For example, life expectancy figures for the Black population were last prepared for the 1969-71 period. At that time, life expectancy at birth for all Blacks and other races was less than one year higher than for Blacks only; in the elderly age groups, the difference was less than one-half year.

## HEALTH

Based on several measures, older Blacks appear to suffer more from effects of chronic health conditions and other illnesses and injuries than Whites in the same age group (Table 19). In 1977, for example, half (51%) of Blacks 65+ years old were limited in their major activity (paid employment, keeping house, etc.) due to chronic conditions compared to only one-third (36%) for Whites. One-fourth (27%) of Blacks in this age group were entirely unable to carry on their major activity; only one-sixth (16%) of Whites were so limited.

The results of a 1972 survey show that one of every four (24%) persons 65+ years old of Black and other races were chronically limited in their physical mobility compared to one-sixth (17% of Whites. Persons of Black and other races in this group were 57% more likely than comparable Whites to be confined to their house because of these chronic conditions (8% vs. 5%).

Other measures of disability from illness or injury include days of "restricted activity" (i.e., cutting down substantially on one's usual daily activities) and days of "bed disability" (i.e., confinement to bed for at least half of the daylight hours). By both measures, Blacks age 65+ suffered more compared to comparable Whites. During 1975, noninstitutionalized Blacks age 65 and over averaged some 60 days of restricted activity per person, about 23 days more than Whites in this age group. These Blacks experienced twice as many bed-disability days as Whites during the same period (25 days vs. 12 days).

Older Blacks are more frequently the victims of hypertension than their White counterparts (Table J). In 1974 more than half (53%) of Blacks in the 65+ age group had experienced this condition compared with about 42% of persons in the 65+ White population.

Table J

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONS 45+ YEARS OLD BY HYPERTENSION STATUS, RACE, AND AGE 1974

(Data exclude persons in institutions)

| Hypertension status | Black | | White | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 45-64 | 65+ | 45-64 | 65+ |
| Total[1/] | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Ever with hypertension | 45.3 | 53.3 | 28.4 | 41.6 |
| Now have hypertension: | | | | |
| Yes | 39.1 | 47.2 | 22.7 | 35.3 |
| No | 3.7 | *3.7 | 4.2 | 4.5 |
| Unknown | 2.4 | 2.5 | 1.6 | 1.7 |
| Never had hypertension | 54.7 | 46.7 | 71.6 | 58.4 |

* Figure does not meet standards of reliability (more than 30 percent relative standard error).

1/ Excludes a small number of persons whose hypertension status is unknown.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Vital and Health Statistics, Series 10, No. 121.

Persons in the hypertensive population are sometimes turned down for health or life insurance coverage because of high blood pressure, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. This factor could have an impact on the problems of many older Blacks since it is during the retirement years when income of wage earners is cut sometimes as much as half of that of their working years and the cost of health care usually increases. As a result, either a substantial amount of income or insurance coverage becomes a necessary ingredient for persons in later years to endure the problems caused by illness.

Crime

Black persons age 65+ are much less likely to be victimized by crime than younger persons (Table K). However, the impact of crime is disproportionately more severe for older victims, particularly in terms of economic loss, physical harm, and the resultant fear for personal safety. For the household crimes of burglary, larceny, and auto theft, the rate of victimization among households headed by Blacks 65+ years old was 192 per 1,000, only 43% as high as the rate for all Black households. Similarly, for the personal crimes of robbery, assault purse snatching, etc., the victimization rate for Black persons was 40 per 1,000, only 31% as high as the rate for all Blacks 12 years old and over. Comparable rates for the 50-64 age group were somewhat less than the overall averages but were twice as high as those for the 65+ group.

Table K

RATE OF CRIMINAL VICTIMIZATION OF BLACK PERSONS AND HOUSEHOLDS, BY TYPE OF CRIME AND AGE OF PERSON OR HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD, 1977

| Age of household head or person | Household crimes | Personal crimes |
|---|---|---|
| RATE PER 1,000 HOUSEHOLDS OR PERSONS | | |
| 12+ years, total... | 445.4 | 131.9 |
| 12 to 19 years..... | 663.8 | 156.3 |
| 20 to 34 years..... | 572.5 | 180.2 |
| 35 to 49 years..... | 501.9 | 107.4 |
| 50 to 64 years..... | 368.4 | 88.3 |
| 65+ years..... | 192.0 | 40.4 |
| RATE FOR ELDERLY AS PERCENT OF RATE FOR 12+ | | |
| 50 to 64 years..... | 82.7% | 66.9% |
| 65+ years..... | 43.1% | 30.6% |

Source: See Table 20.

In 1977, Blacks aged 65+ who were a household head experienced a quarter of a million household crimes and another 81,000 personal crimes were directed at Black persons in this age group (Table 20). These Blacks are more likely to be victimized by crime than equivalent Whites. The household crime rate for Blacks age 65+ was higher by one-fourth and the personal crime rate was higher by one-third than for their White counterparts. Compared to Whites, these Blacks were particularly vulnerable to the household crime of larceny (with amounts of $50 or more) and the personal crimes of robbery and crimes of "theft with contact" (such as purse snatching and pocket picking).

## CONCLUSION

The number of elderly Blacks is increasing at a substantially faster rate than the general population and also the elderly White population. Between 1960 and 1978, Blacks 60 years old and over increased by more than 60% as compared to 38% for elderly Whites. However, the Black elderly have not fared as well economically as their White counterparts. Their median income remained at only two-thirds of that of elderly Whites between 1967 and 1977. This disparity reflects limited employment opportunities for this older group, concentration in lower paying jobs during younger working years, and concentration in jobs not covered by Social Security prior to 1950. As a result, a greater percentage of older Blacks than older Whites are without social security benefits or are recipients of benefits based on lower wages. Another high percentage of these older Blacks are without pension rights. The higher average monthly Supplemental Security Income payments for these Blacks than for corresponding Whites is a result of the low countable income for older Blacks.

Elderly Blacks continued to make gains in formal educational attainment, though at a slower rate than elderly Whites. There is a strong positive relationship between formal educational attainment and income when discrimination does not depress such relationship. As a consequence, older Blacks did not benefit as much economically during younger working years from formal training as older Whites. This factor, together with others such as those mentioned above, contributed directly or indirectly to make possible for the income of older Whites to keep its distance from that of comparable Blacks.

The statistics cited in this report are best summed up in a statement on minority elderly from the Special Committee on Aging of the United States Senate:

> "In recent years, though, the economic well-being of aged minority members has improved because of social security increases, the advent of supplement security income, and benefit boosts in other income maintenance programs. Nonetheless, they still lag far behind other older Americans by almost any standard of measurement.
>
> The year 1977 brought little change in this overall situation. The results of the 1977 Bureau of the Census income survey are mixed. Proportionately, fewer minority members lived in poverty in 1976 than in 1975. However, the number of impoverished minority aged remained almost unchanged. And their incidence of poverty continues at a disturbingly--and sometimes shockingly--high rate." 9/

9/ Special Committee on Aging, U.S. Senate, Developments in Aging: 1977, Part, page 175.

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Table 1

NUMBER OF BLACK PERSONS 60+ YEARS OLD, BY AGE AND SEX, AND NUMBER OF WHITE PERSONS 60+ YEARS OLD, JULY 1960-JULY 2000

| Age and year | Black | | | | | | White, both sexes (000) | Ratio: Black to White (both sexes, percent change only) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Both sexes | Percent of Blacks of all ages | Percent of all races in same age group | Male (000) | Female | | | |
| | | | | | Number (000) | Percent of both sexes | | |
| **60+** | | | | | | | | |
| Projections: 2000.... | 4,116 | 12.5 | 9.8 | 1,722 | 2,394 | 58.2 | 36,982 | (X) |
| 1990.... | 3,612 | 12.1 | 9.0 | 1,523 | 2,089 | 57.8 | 35,979 | (X) |
| 1980.... | 2,932 | 11.2 | 8.4 | 1,248 | 1,685 | 57.5 | 31,419 | (X) |
| Estimates : 1978.... | 2,782 | 10.9 | 8.3 | 1,186 | 1,598 | 57.4 | 30,344 | (X) |
| 1970.... | 2,300 | 10.1 | 8.0 | 1,012 | 1,288 | 56.0 | 26,225 | (X) |
| 1960.... | 1,741 | 9.2 | 7.3 | 815 | 926 | 53.2 | 21,963 | (X) |
| Percent change: | | | | | | | | |
| 1990 - 2000..... | 14.0 | (X) | (X) | 13.1 | 14.6 | (X) | 2.8 | 5.00 |
| 1980 - 1990..... | 23.2 | (X) | (X) | 22.0 | 24.0 | (X) | 14.5 | 1.60 |
| 1970 - 1980..... | 27.5 | (X) | (X) | 23.3 | 30.8 | (X) | 19.8 | 1.39 |
| 1970 - 1978..... | 21.0 | (X) | (X) | 17.2 | 24.1 | (X) | 15.7 | 1.34 |
| 1960 - 1970..... | 32.1 | (X) | (X) | 24.2 | 39.1 | (X) | 19.4 | 1.65 |
| **65+** | | | | | | | | |
| Projections: 2000.... | 3,037 | 9.2 | 9.5 | 1,232 | 1,805 | 59.4 | 28,155 | (X) |
| 1990.... | 2,607 | 8.7 | 8.7 | 1,064 | 1,543 | 59.2 | 26,810 | (X) |
| 1980.... | 2,078 | 7.9 | 8.3 | 861 | 1,217 | 58.6 | 22,580 | (X) |
| Estimates : 1978.... | 1,989 | 7.8 | 8.3 | 828 | 1,162 | 58.4 | 21,800 | (X) |
| 1970.... | 1,556 | 6.9 | 7.7 | 673 | 883 | 56.7 | 18,373 | (X) |
| 1960.... | 1,189 | 6.3 | 7.1 | 552 | 637 | 53.6 | 15,405 | (X) |
| Percent change: | | | | | | | | |
| 1990 - 2000..... | 16.5 | (X) | (X) | 15.8 | 17.0 | (X) | 5.0 | 3.30 |
| 1980 - 1990..... | 25.5 | (X) | (X) | 23.6 | 26.8 | (X) | 18.7 | 1.36 |
| 1970 - 1980..... | 33.5 | (X) | (X) | 27.9 | 37.8 | (X) | 22.9 | 1.46 |
| 1970 - 1978..... | 27.8 | (X) | (X) | 23.0 | 31.6 | (X) | 18.7 | 1.49 |
| 1960 - 1970..... | 30.9 | (X) | (X) | 21.9 | 38.6 | (X) | 19.3 | 1.60 |
| **75+** | | | | | | | | |
| Projections: 2000.... | 1,167 | 3.6 | 8.1 | 426 | 740 | 63.4 | 12,934 | (X) |
| 1990.... | 926 | 3.1 | 7.7 | 345 | 580 | 62.6 | 10,906 | (X) |
| 1980.... | 669 | 2.6 | 7.1 | 258 | 411 | 61.4 | 8,635 | (X) |
| Estimates : 1978.... | 659 | 2.6 | 7.2 | 253 | 405 | 61.5 | 8,337 | (X) |
| 1970.... | 508 | 2.2 | 6.7 | 210 | 298 | 58.7 | 7,035 | (X) |
| 1960.... | 368 | 1.9 | 6.5 | 166 | 201 | 54.6 | 5,228 | (X) |
| Percent change: | | | | | | | | |
| 1990 - 2000..... | 26.0 | (X) | (X) | 23.5 | 27.6 | (X) | 18.6 | 1.40 |
| 1980 - 1990..... | 38.4 | (X) | (X) | 33.7 | 41.1 | (X) | 26.3 | 1.46 |
| 1970 - 1980..... | 31.7 | (X) | (X) | 22.9 | 37.9 | (X) | 22.7 | 1.40 |
| 1970 - 1978..... | 29.7 | (X) | (X) | 20.5 | 35.9 | (X) | 18.5 | 1.61 |
| 1960 - 1970..... | 38.0 | (X) | (X) | 26.5 | 48.3 | (X) | 34.6 | 1.10 |

(X) Not applicable.

Source: Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, Numbers 800, 721, 704, and 519.

Table 2

BLACK RESIDENT POPULATION OF ALL AGES AND 60+ YEARS OLD, BY STATE, 1970

| State | Total, all ages | 60+ | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Number | Percent distribution | Percent of total Black | Percent of all races 60+ | Percent change from 1960 |
| U.S. Total | 22,580,289 | 2,297,531 | 100.0 | 10.2 | 8.0 | 33.5 |
| Alabama | 903,467 | 122,765 | 5.3 | 13.5 | 25.7 | 16.8 |
| Alaska | 8,911 | 221 | * | 2.5 | 1.8 | 125.5 |
| Arizona | 53,344 | 5,196 | 0.2 | 9.7 | 2.2 | 43.6 |
| Arkansas | 352,445 | 58,552 | 2.6 | 16.6 | 17.5 | 10.4 |
| California | 1,400,143 | 107,165 | 4.7 | 7.7 | 4.2 | 94.4 |
| Colorado | 66,411 | 4,640 | 0.2 | 7.0 | 1.7 | 38.7 |
| Connecticut | 181,177 | 11,218 | 0.5 | 6.2 | 2.7 | 64.4 |
| Delaware | 78,276 | 7,182 | 0.3 | 9.2 | 11.3 | 28.7 |
| District of Columbia | 537,712 | 46,920 | 2.0 | 8.7 | 45.2 | 52.5 |
| Florida | 1,041,651 | 101,332 | 4.4 | 9.7 | 7.5 | 47.8 |
| Georgia | 1,187,149 | 129,540 | 5.7 | 10.9 | 23.9 | 21.9 |
| Hawaii | 7,573 | 124 | * | 1.6 | 0.2 | # |
| Idaho | 2,130 | 138 | * | 6.5 | 0.1 | -17.4 |
| Illinois | 1,425,674 | 119,962 | 5.2 | 8.4 | 7.6 | 46.1 |
| Indiana | 357,464 | 33,801 | 1.5 | 9.5 | 4.8 | 39.0 |
| Iowa | 32,596 | 3,281 | 0.1 | 10.1 | 0.7 | 12.6 |
| Kansas | 106,977 | 12,855 | 0.6 | 12.0 | 3.5 | 13.2 |
| Kentucky | 230,793 | 33,456 | 1.5 | 14.5 | 7.0 | 8.9 |
| Louisiana | 1,086,832 | 127,500 | 5.6 | 11.7 | 28.4 | 18.2 |
| Maine | 2,800 | 174 | * | 6.2 | 0.1 | 89.1 |
| Maryland | 699,479 | 59,575 | 2.6 | 8.5 | 13.4 | 45.8 |
| Massachusetts | 175,817 | 13,299 | 0.6 | 7.6 | 1.5 | 28.4 |
| Michigan | 991,066 | 85,487 | 3.7 | 8.6 | 7.8 | 69.6 |
| Minnesota | 34,868 | 2,900 | 0.1 | 8.3 | 0.5 | 31.3 |
| Mississippi | 815,770 | 111,533 | 4.9 | 13.7 | 34.8 | 10.1 |
| Missouri | 480,172 | 56,688 | 2.5 | 11.8 | 7.2 | 25.3 |
| Montana | 1,995 | 130 | * | 6.5 | 0.1 | -6.5 |
| Nebraska | 39,911 | 3,465 | 0.2 | 8.7 | 1.4 | 15.3 |
| Nevada | 27,762 | 1,449 | 0.1 | 5.2 | 3.0 | 122.2 |
| New Hampshire | 2,505 | 102 | * | 4.1 | 0.1 | 13.3 |
| New Jersey | 770,292 | 61,718 | 2.7 | 8.0 | 6.1 | 50.5 |
| New Mexico | 19,555 | 1,405 | 0.1 | 7.2 | 1.3 | 56.8 |
| New York | 2,168,949 | 175,049 | 7.6 | 8.1 | 6.2 | 64.7 |
| North Carolina | 1,126,478 | 117,861 | 5.1 | 10.5 | 19.2 | 31.3 |
| North Dakota | 2,494 | 35 | * | 1.4 | * | # |
| Ohio | 970,477 | 96,123 | 4.2 | 9.9 | 6.7 | 41.3 |
| Oklahoma | 171,892 | 24,417 | 1.1 | 14.2 | 5.8 | 18.0 |
| Oregon | 26,308 | 2,218 | 0.1 | 8.4 | 0.7 | 93.9 |
| Pennsylvania | 1,016,574 | 111,855 | 4.9 | 11.0 | 6.1 | 39.0 |
| Rhode Island | 25,338 | 2,031 | 0.1 | 8.0 | 1.4 | 37.1 |
| South Carolina | 789,041 | 78,393 | 3.4 | 9.9 | 27.4 | 17.2 |
| South Dakota | 1,627 | 72 | * | 4.4 | 0.1 | -11.1 |
| Tennessee | 621,261 | 81,213 | 3.5 | 13.1 | 14.6 | 22.6 |
| Texas | 1,399,005 | 161,137 | 7.0 | 11.5 | 11.2 | 29.6 |
| Utah | 6,617 | 482 | * | 7.3 | 0.4 | 69.1 |
| Vermont | 761 | 61 | * | 8.0 | 0.1 | # |
| Virginia | 861,368 | 93,637 | 4.1 | 10.9 | 17.4 | 19.5 |
| Washington | 71,308 | 4,562 | 0.2 | 6.4 | 1.0 | 58.0 |
| West Virginia | 67,342 | 13,632 | 0.6 | 20.2 | 4.9 | 5.5 |
| Wisconsin | 128,224 | 6,508 | 0.3 | 5.1 | 1.0 | 91.6 |
| Wyoming | 2,568 | 202 | * | 7.9 | 0.5 | 12.2 |

* Less than 0.05 percent.
\# Base less than 80.
Note: Percents may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.
Source: Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population, PC(1)-B, U.S. Summary and 1960 Census of Population, PC(1)-D, State Reports. The 1970 figures are based on a complete count; the 1960 figures are based on a 25 percent sample.

Table 3

MARITAL STATUS OF PERSONS 55+, 60+, AND 65+ YEARS OLD, BY RACE AND SEX, MARCH 1978

(Data exclude persons in institutions)

| Age and marital status | Male | | | Female | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White (percents only) | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White (percents only) |
| 55+ | | | | | | |
| Total (000) | 1,597 | 17,110 | (X) | 2,069 | 21,736 | (X) |
| Percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 |
| Single | 6.6 | 5.3 | 1.25 | 4.7 | 5.7 | 0.82 |
| Married | 71.8 | 82.9 | 0.87 | 44.1 | 53.6 | 0.82 |
| Spouse present | 60.9 | 80.9 | 0.75 | 35.5 | 51.8 | 0.69 |
| Spouse absent | 11.0 | 2.0 | 5.50 | 8.7 | 1.8 | 4.83 |
| Widowed | 14.0 | 7.9 | 1.77 | 43.7 | 36.2 | 1.21 |
| Divorced | 7.6 | 3.9 | 1.95 | 7.4 | 4.4 | 1.68 |
| 60+ | | | | | | |
| Total (000) | 1,184 | 12,356 | (X) | 1,537 | 16,540 | (X) |
| Percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 |
| Single | 5.7 | 5.3 | 1.08 | 4.4 | 6.2 | 0.71 |
| Married | 70.0 | 81.2 | 0.86 | 38.6 | 46.8 | 0.82 |
| Spouse present | 59.0 | 79.3 | 0.74 | 32.3 | 45.2 | 0.71 |
| Spouse absent | 11.0 | 1.9 | 5.79 | 6.3 | 1.6 | 3.94 |
| Widowed | 17.6 | 10.1 | 1.74 | 51.5 | 43.4 | 1.19 |
| Divorced | 6.7 | 3.3 | 2.03 | 5.5 | 3.7 | 1.49 |
| 65+ | | | | | | |
| Total (000) | 819 | 8,249 | (X) | 1,111 | 12,067 | (X) |
| Percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 |
| Single | 6.8 | 5.2 | 1.31 | 3.9 | 6.5 | 0.60 |
| Married | 64.8 | 79.1 | 0.82 | 32.5 | 39.3 | 0.83 |
| Spouse present | 53.8 | 77.2 | 0.70 | 27.1 | 37.8 | 0.72 |
| Spouse absent | 11.0 | 1.9 | 5.79 | 5.4 | 1.5 | 3.60 |
| Widowed | 22.6 | 13.1 | 1.73 | 58.7 | 51.2 | 1.15 |
| Divorced | 5.9 | 2.6 | 2.27 | 5.0 | 3.0 | 1.67 |

(X) Not applicable.
Note: Percents may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.
Source: Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P. 20, No. 338, and unpublished data from the March 1978 Current Population Survey.

Table 4

MARITAL STATUS OF PERSONS 25+ YEARS OLD,
BY AGE, RACE, AND SEX, MARCH 1978

(Data exclude persons in institutions)

| Sex and age | Percent married, spouse present | | | Percent all other statuses 1/ | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Total | | | Widowed | | |
| | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White |
| MALE | | | | | | | | | |
| 25-34 .... | 51.5 | 71.5 | 0.72 | 48.5 | 28.5 | 1.70 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 3.00 |
| 35-44 .... | 63.2 | 83.4 | 0.76 | 36.8 | 16.6 | 2.22 | 0.9 | 0.4 | 2.25 |
| 45-54 .... | 60.5 | 84.6 | 0.72 | 39.5 | 15.4 | 2.56 | 4.2 | 1.3 | 3.23 |
| 55-64 .... | 68.2 | 84.3 | 0.81 | 31.8 | 15.7 | 2.03 | 4.9 | 3.1 | 1.58 |
| 55-59 .. | 66.1 | 85.0 | 0.78 | 33.9 | 15.0 | 2.26 | 3.6 | 2.2 | 1.64 |
| 60-64 .. | 70.7 | 83.4 | 0.85 | 29.3 | 16.6 | 1.77 | 6.3 | 4.1 | 1.54 |
| 65-74 .... | 56.1 | 80.7 | 0.70 | 43.8 | 19.3 | 2.27 | 18.9 | 8.7 | 2.17 |
| 75+ ..... | 48.4 | 70.5 | 0.69 | 51.6 | 29.5 | 1.75 | 31.2 | 21.8 | 1.43 |
| 60+ ..... | 59.0 | 79.3 | 0.74 | 41.0 | 20.7 | 1.98 | 17.6 | 10.1 | 1.74 |
| FEMALE | | | | | | | | | |
| 25-34 .... | 44.5 | 75.0 | 0.59 | 55.5 | 25.0 | 2.22 | 2.2 | 0.4 | 5.50 |
| 35-44 .... | 49.9 | 80.3 | 0.62 | 50.1 | 19.7 | 2.54 | 4.0 | 2.1 | 1.90 |
| 45-54 .... | 48.9 | 79.4 | 0.62 | 51.0 | 20.6 | 2.48 | 12.8 | 6.5 | 1.97 |
| 55-64 .... | 45.2 | 69.4 | 0.65 | 54.8 | 30.6 | 1.79 | 26.4 | 17.6 | 1.50 |
| 55-59 .. | 44.7 | 73.0 | 0.61 | 55.3 | 27.0 | 2.05 | 21.1 | 13.5 | 1.56 |
| 60-64 .. | 45.8 | 65.2 | 0.70 | 54.2 | 34.8 | 1.56 | 33.1 | 22.2 | 1.49 |
| 65-74 .... | 33.2 | 47.6 | 0.70 | 66.8 | 52.4 | 1.27 | 48.4 | 40.4 | 1.20 |
| 75+ ..... | 15.3 | 22.3 | 0.69 | 84.7 | 77.7 | 1.09 | 78.4 | 68.3 | 1.15 |
| 60+ ..... | 32.3 | 45.2 | 0.71 | 67.7 | 54.8 | 1.24 | 51.5 | 43.4 | 1.19 |

1/ Includes single (never married), divorced, separated, and widowed.
Source: See Table 3.

Table 5

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF PERSONS 60+ AND 65+ YEARS OLD, BY RACE, MARCH 1978

(Data exclude persons in institutions)

| Age and living arrangements | Black | | White | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total (000) | Percent distribution | Total (000) | Percent distribution |
| 60+ | | | | |
| Total..... | 2,721 | 100.0 | 28,856 | 100.0 |
| Living alone or with nonrelatives..... | 871 | 32.0 | 8,086 | 28.0 |
| Male..... | 329 | 12.1 | 1,799 | 6.2 |
| Female..... | 541 | 19.9 | 6,287 | 21.8 |
| Living in family units... | 1,851 | 68.0 | 20,810 | 72.0 |
| Male head..... | 742 | 27.3 | 10,033 | 34.7 |
| Female head..... | 302 | 11.1 | 1,222 | 4.2 |
| Wife of head..... | 487 | 17.9 | 7,400 | 25.6 |
| Other relatives..... | 320 | 11.8 | 2,155 | 7.5 |
| of male head..... | 159 | 5.8 | 1,413 | 4.9 |
| of female head.... | 161 | 5.9 | 742 | 2.6 |
| 65+ | | | | |
| Total..... | 1,930 | 100.0 | 20,316 | 100.0 |
| Living alone or with nonrelatives..... | 684 | 35.4 | 6,566 | 32.3 |
| Male..... | 251 | 13.0 | 1,357 | 6.7 |
| Female..... | 433 | 22.4 | 5,209 | 25.6 |
| Living in family units... | 1,246 | 64.6 | 13,751 | 67.7 |
| Male head..... | 464 | 24.0 | 6,530 | 32.1 |
| Female head..... | 214 | 11.1 | 933 | 4.6 |
| Wife of head..... | 295 | 15.3 | 4,507 | 22.2 |
| Other relatives..... | 272 | 14.1 | 1,780 | 8.8 |
| of male head..... | 139 | 7.2 | 1,187 | 5.8 |
| of female head.... | 133 | 6.9 | 593 | 2.9 |

Note: Percents may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.
Source: See Table 3.

Table 6

FAMILY MEMBERS BY AGE AND RACE IN FAMILIES WITH HEADS 60+ YEARS OLD, BY SEX OF HEAD, MARCH 1978

(Data exclude persons in institutions)

| Age of family member | Families with head 60+ | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | | Male head | | Female head | |
| | Black | White | Black | White | Black | White |
| ALL FAMILY MEMBERS | | | | | | |
| Number (000) ..... | 3,257 | 26,693 | 2,258 | 23,598 | 999 | 3,095 |
| Percent ..... | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Under 16 ..... | 14.6 | 3.2 | 12.0 | 3.0 | 20.3 | 4.5 |
| 16 to 21 ..... | 9.6 | 4.2 | 9.3 | 4.0 | 10.2 | 5.2 |
| 22 to 44 ..... | 14.5 | 8.4 | 12.0 | 6.8 | 20.2 | 20.7 |
| 45 to 54 ..... | 6.9 | 4.9 | 5.7 | 4.1 | 9.5 | 11.1 |
| 55 to 59 ..... | 4.7 | 7.8 | 6.0 | 8.2 | 1.8 | 4.4 |
| 60 to 64 ..... | 17.1 | 24.5 | 20.2 | 26.0 | 10.1 | 12.9 |
| 65 and over .... | 32.7 | 47.1 | 34.9 | 47.9 | 27.7 | 41.2 |
| FAMILY MEMBERS EXCLUDING HEADS AND SPOUSES | | | | | | |
| Number (000) ..... | 1,534 | 5,720 | 838 | 3,847 | 696 | 1,874 |
| Percent ..... | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Under 16 ..... | 31.0 | 14.8 | 32.5 | 18.4 | 29.2 | 7.5 |
| 16 to 21 ..... | 20.3 | 19.4 | 25.1 | 24.7 | 14.7 | 8.5 |
| 22 to 44 ..... | 29.5 | 37.4 | 30.0 | 39.0 | 29.0 | 34.3 |
| 45 to 54 ..... | 9.2 | 9.3 | 5.4 | 4.8 | 13.6 | 18.4 |
| 55 to 59 ..... | 2.1 | 3.5 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 2.6 | 7.2 |
| 60 to 64 ..... | 1.2 | 3.1 | 0.6 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 5.9 |
| 65 and over .... | 6.7 | 12.4 | 4.9 | 9.6 | 9.1 | 18.3 |

Note: Percents may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.
Source: See Table 3.

Table 7

EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF PERSONS 55+, 60+, AND 65+ YEARS OLD, BY RACE AND SEX, 1978

(Numbers are annual averages shown in thousands)

| Sex and employment status | 55+ | | 60+ | | 65+ | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Black | White | Black | White | Black | White |
| BOTH SEXES | | | | | | |
| Total[1/] ..... | 3,698 | 39,049 | 2,712 | 29,059 | 1,925 | 20,614 |
| In labor force ..... | 1,265 | 13,162 | 657 | 6,642 | 294 | 2,711 |
| Percent of total ..... | 34.2 | 33.7 | 24.2 | 22.9 | 15.3 | 13.2 |
| Employed ..... | 1,202 | 12,774 | 627 | 6,428 | 277 | 2,609 |
| Unemployed ..... | 63 | 389 | 31 | 215 | 17 | 103 |
| Percent of labor force .. | 5.0 | 3.0 | 4.7 | 3.2 | 5.8 | 3.8 |
| Not in labor force ..... | 2,432 | 25,887 | 2,053 | 22,417 | 1,630 | 17,903 |
| Percent of total ..... | 65.8 | 66.3 | 75.7 | 77.1 | 84.7 | 86.8 |
| MALE | | | | | | |
| Total[1/] ..... | 1,609 | 17,194 | 1,155 | 12,421 | 802 | 8,463 |
| In labor force ..... | 717 | 8,179 | 376 | 4,187 | 169 | 1,725 |
| Percent of total ..... | 44.6 | 47.6 | 32.6 | 33.7 | 21.1 | 20.4 |
| Employed ..... | 683 | 7,945 | 359 | 4,056 | 159 | 1,658 |
| Unemployed ..... | 35 | 234 | 17 | 132 | 11 | 67 |
| Percent of labor force .. | 4.9 | 2.9 | 4.5 | 3.2 | 6.5 | 3.9 |
| Not in labor force ..... | 892 | 9,015 | 780 | 8,234 | 633 | 6,738 |
| Percent of total ..... | 55.4 | 52.4 | 67.5 | 66.3 | 78.9 | 79.6 |
| FEMALE | | | | | | |
| Total[1/] ..... | 2,088 | 21,855 | 1,556 | 16,638 | 1,123 | 12,151 |
| In labor force ..... | 548 | 4,983 | 282 | 2,455 | 125 | 986 |
| Percent of total ..... | 26.2 | 22.8 | 18.1 | 14.8 | 11.1 | 8.1 |
| Employed ..... | 520 | 4,828 | 269 | 2,372 | 119 | 950 |
| Unemployed ..... | 28 | 155 | 13 | 84 | 6 | 36 |
| Percent of labor force .. | 5.1 | 3.1 | 4.6 | 3.4 | 4.8 | 3.7 |
| Not in labor force ..... | 1,541 | 16,871 | 1,274 | 14,182 | 998 | 11,164 |
| Percent of total ..... | 73.8 | 77.2 | 81.9 | 85.2 | 88.9 | 91.9 |

1/ Civilian noninstitutional population.
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Earnings, Vol.26, No. 1, January 1979, and unpublished data from the 1978 Current Population Survey.

Table 8

DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES WITH HEADS 25-64 AND 65+ YEARS OLD, BY RACE AND MONEY INCOME IN 1977

(Data exclude persons in institutions)

| Income in 1977 | Head 25-64 | | | Head 65+ | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White |
| Number (000)..... | 4,558 | 39,826 | (X) | 679 | 7,463 | (X) |
| Median income..... | $10,880 | $18,697 | 0.58 | $6,066 | $9,458 | 0.64 |
| Percent..... | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 |
| Under $2,000..... | 3.8 | 1.5 | 2.53 | 2.4 | 0.9 | 2.67 |
| $2,000 to $2,999..... | 3.6 | 0.9 | 4.00 | 9.3 | 1.9 | 4.89 |
| $3,000 to $3,999..... | 5.5 | 1.4 | 3.93 | 14.3 | 5.2 | 2.75 |
| $4,000 to $4,999..... | 5.7 | 1.8 | 3.17 | 13.0 | 6.8 | 1.91 |
| $5,000 to $5,999..... | 5.7 | 2.1 | 2.71 | 10.5 | 8.6 | 1.22 |
| $6,000 to $6,999..... | 6.2 | 2.2 | 2.82 | 9.1 | 8.9 | 1.02 |
| $7,000 to $7,999..... | 4.7 | 2.5 | 1.88 | 7.1 | 8.1 | 0.88 |
| $8,000 to $8,999..... | 5.2 | 2.7 | 1.93 | 4.9 | 6.9 | 0.71 |
| $9,000 to $9,999..... | 5.0 | 2.7 | 1.85 | 3.8 | 6.0 | 0.63 |
| $10,000 to $11,999... | 9.1 | 6.2 | 1.47 | 5.4 | 9.4 | 0.57 |
| $12,000 to $14,999... | 10.8 | 11.2 | 0.96 | 6.0 | 10.9 | 0.55 |
| $15,000 to $24,999... | 24.0 | 36.6 | 0.66 | 9.6 | 16.8 | 0.57 |
| $25,000+..... | 10.7 | 28.3 | 0.38 | 4.7 | 9.7 | 0.48 |

(X) Not applicable

Note: Families as of March 1978 survey. Percents may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 118.

Table 9

DISTRIBUTION OF UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS 25-64 AND 65+ YEARS OLD BY RACE AND MONEY INCOME IN 1977

(Data exclude persons in institutions)

| Income in 1977 | 25-64 | | | 65+ | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White |
| Number (000)..... | 1,760 | 9,713 | (X) | 684 | 6,566 | (X) |
| Median income..... | $6,129 | $9,339 | 0.66 | $2,804 | $3,947 | 0.71 |
| Percent..... | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 |
| Under $2,000..... | 13.5 | 7.6 | 1.78 | 13.7 | 6.5 | 2.11 |
| $2,000 to $2,999..... | 13.0 | 6.6 | 1.97 | 42.3 | 20.6 | 2.05 |
| $3,000 to $3,999..... | 8.6 | 5.9 | 1.46 | 21.3 | 24.1 | 0.88 |
| $4,000 to $4,999..... | 5.5 | 5.7 | 0.96 | 8.8 | 12.9 | 0.68 |
| $5,000 to $5,999..... | 8.5 | 6.0 | 1.42 | 5.6 | 8.6 | 0.65 |
| $6,000 to $6,999..... | 7.5 | 5.2 | 1.44 | 3.4 | 6.2 | 0.55 |
| $7,000 to $7,999..... | 6.0 | 5.5 | 1.09 | 2.0 | 4.6 | 0.43 |
| $8,000 to $8,999..... | 4.1 | 5.8 | 0.71 | 0.9 | 3.3 | 0.27 |
| $9,000 to $9,999..... | 5.1 | 5.6 | 0.91 | 0.7 | 2.5 | 0.28 |
| $10,000 to $11,999... | 8.3 | 10.3 | 0.81 | 0.4 | 3.2 | 0.13 |
| $12,000 to $14,999... | 8.4 | 13.0 | 0.65 | 0.4 | 3.2 | 0.13 |
| $15,000 to $24,999... | 9.9 | 17.9 | 0.55 | 0.7 | 3.2 | 0.22 |
| $25,000+..... | 1.6 | 5.1 | 0.31 | -- | 1.1 | (X) |

(X) Not applicable.
-- Denotes zero.

Note: Unrelated individuals as of March 1978 survey. Percents may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

Source: See Table 8

Table 10

CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES WITH HEADS 25-64 AND 65+ YEARS OLD AND UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS 25-65 AND 65+ YEARS OLD, BY RACE AND MONEY INCOME, 1977

(Data exclude persons in institutions)

| Percent with income in 1977 below specified levels | 25-64 years 1/ | | | 65+ years 1/ | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White |
| FAMILIES | | | | | | |
| Under $2,000 ... | 3.8 | 1.5 | 2.53 | 2.4 | 0.9 | 2.67 |
| Under $3,000 ... | 7.4 | 2.4 | 3.08 | 11.6 | 2.8 | 4.14 |
| Under $4,000 ... | 12.9 | 3.8 | 3.39 | 25.9 | 8.1 | 3.20 |
| Under $5,000 ... | 18.6 | 5.6 | 3.32 | 38.9 | 14.8 | 2.63 |
| Under $6,000 ... | 24.3 | 7.6 | 3.20 | 49.3 | 23.4 | 2.11 |
| Under $7,000 ... | 30.5 | 9.8 | 3.11 | 58.5 | 32.3 | 1.81 |
| Under $8,000 ... | 35.3 | 12.3 | 2.87 | 65.5 | 40.4 | 1.62 |
| Under $9,000 ... | 40.5 | 15.1 | 2.68 | 70.4 | 47.3 | 1.49 |
| Under $10,000 .. | 45.5 | 17.8 | 2.56 | 74.2 | 53.2 | 1.39 |
| Under $12,000 .. | 54.6 | 24.0 | 2.28 | 79.7 | 62.6 | 1.27 |
| Under $15,000 .. | 65.4 | 35.2 | 1.86 | 85.7 | 73.5 | 1.17 |
| Under $25,000 .. | 89.4 | 71.7 | 1.25 | 95.3 | 90.3 | 1.06 |
| UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS | | | | | | |
| Under $2,000 ... | 13.5 | 7.6 | 1.78 | 13.7 | 6.5 | 2.11 |
| Under $3,000 ... | 26.4 | 14.2 | 1.86 | 56.0 | 27.1 | 2.07 |
| Under $4,000 ... | 35.1 | 20.0 | 1.76 | 77.3 | 51.2 | 1.51 |
| Under $5,000 ... | 40.6 | 25.7 | 1.58 | 86.1 | 64.1 | 1.34 |
| Under $6,000 ... | 49.0 | 31.7 | 1.55 | 91.7 | 72.7 | 1.26 |
| Under $7,000 ... | 56.5 | 36.8 | 1.54 | 95.0 | 78.9 | 1.20 |
| Under $8,000 ... | 62.5 | 42.3 | 1.48 | 97.1 | 83.5 | 1.16 |
| Under $9,000 ... | 66.6 | 48.1 | 1.38 | 98.0 | 86.8 | 1.13 |
| Under $10,000 .. | 71.7 | 53.7 | 1.34 | 98.7 | 89.3 | 1.11 |
| Under $12,000 .. | 80.0 | 64.0 | 1.25 | 99.1 | 92.5 | 1.07 |
| Under $15,000 .. | 88.4 | 77.0 | 1.15 | 99.6 | 95.7 | 1.04 |
| Under $25,000 .. | 98.3 | 94.9 | 1.04 | 100.0 | 98.9 | 1.01 |

1/ Age of family head or unrelated individual.
Note: Families and unrelated individuals as of March 1978 survey.
Source: See Table 8.

Table 11

TREND IN MEDIAN MONEY INCOME FOR FAMILIES WITH HEADS 65+ YEARS OLD AND PERCENT WITH INCOME BELOW $3,000 AND $5,000, BY RACE, 1967-77

(Data exclude persons in institutions)

| Year | Median income | | | | | Percent with income below: | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Current dollars | | Constant 1977 dollars | | | $3,000 | | | $5,000 | | |
| | Black | White | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White |
| 1977... | $6,066 | $9,458 | $6,066 | $9,458 | 0.64 | 11.6 | 2.8 | 4.14 | 38.9 | 14.8 | 2.63 |
| 1976... | 5,810 | 8,986 | 6,185 | 9,566 | 0.65 | 11.1 | 3.7 | 3.00 | 38.8 | 17.5 | 2.22 |
| 1975... | 5,293 | 8,346 | 5,960 | 9,397 | 0.63 | 17.5 | 4.6 | 3.80 | 47.8 | 21.4 | 2.23 |
| 1974... | 4,909 | 7,519 | 6,032 | 9,240 | 0.65 | 18.7 | 7.5 | 2.49 | 51.4 | 26.4 | 1.95 |
| 1973... | 4,233 | 6,656 | 5,772 | 9,076 | 0.64 | 29.2 | 10.4 | 2.81 | 61.0 | 33.1 | 1.84 |
| 1972... | 4,362 | 6,133 | 6,318 | 8,884 | 0.71 | 30.6 | 13.9 | 2.20 | 57.3 | 38.5 | 1.49 |
| 1971... | 3,839 | 5,671 | 5,744 | 8,396 | 0.68 | 37.9 | 18.2 | 2.08 | 64.8 | 43.7 | 1.48 |
| 1970... | 3,282 | 5,263 | 5,122 | 8,214 | 0.62 | 44.9 | 22.2 | 2.02 | 71.5 | 47.8 | 1.50 |
| 1969... | 3,045 | 4,953 | 5,033 | 8,186 | 0.61 | 49.2 | 25.7 | 1.91 | 71.6 | 50.6 | 1.42 |
| 1968... | 3,070 | 4,746 | 5,347 | 8,267 | 0.65 | 48.6 | 27.6 | 1.76 | 76.5 | 52.7 | 1.45 |
| 1967... | 2,609 | 4,071 | 4,735 | 7,389 | 0.64 | 56.9 | 35.1 | 1.62 | 78.9 | 58.9 | 1.34 |

Source: Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, reports for each year.

Table 12

TREND IN MEDIAN MONEY INCOME FOR UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS 65+ YEARS OLD AND PERCENT WITH INCOME BELOW $3,000 AND $5,000, BY RACE, 1967-77

(Data exclude persons in institutions)

| Year | Median income | | | | | Percent with income below: | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Current dollars | | Constant 1977 dollars | | | $3,000 | | | $5,000 | | |
| | Black | White | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White |
| 1977... | $2,804 | $3,947 | $2,804 | $3,947 | 0.71 | 56.0 | 27.1 | 2.07 | 86.1 | 64.1 | 1.34 |
| 1976... | 2,581 | 3,639 | 2,748 | 3,874 | 0.71 | 64.2 | 34.6 | 1.86 | 88.1 | 68.0 | 1.40 |
| 1975... | 2,365 | 3,415 | 2,663 | 3,845 | 0.69 | 70.6 | 39.0 | 1.81 | 91.7 | 70.7 | 1.30 |
| 1974... | 2,152 | 3,073 | 2,644 | 3,776 | 0.70 | 80.3 | 48.4 | 1.66 | 94.5 | 74.9 | 1.26 |
| 1973... | 1,899 | 2,810 | 2,590 | 3,832 | 0.68 | 83.6 | 55.0 | 1.52 | 95.3 | 80.4 | 1.19 |
| 1972... | 1,734 | 2,471 | 2,512 | 3,579 | 0.70 | 88.5 | 62.4 | 1.42 | 95.9 | 83.1 | 1.15 |
| 1971... | 1,612 | 2,271 | 2,412 | 3,398 | 0.71 | 86.0 | 66.6 | 1.29 | 95.3 | 85.4 | 1.12 |
| 1970... | 1,443 | 2,005 | 2,252 | 3,129 | 0.72 | 89.7 | 70.8 | 1.27 | 95.6 | 86.3 | 1.11 |
| 1969... | 1,283 | 1,922 | 2,121 | 3,177 | 0.67 | 91.3 | 72.4 | 1.26 | 96.4 | 86.7 | 1.11 |
| 1968... | 1,275 | 1,797 | 2,221 | 3,130 | 0.71 | 94.1 | 74.9 | 1.26 | 98.6 | 89.0 | 1.11 |
| 1967... | 1,127 | 1,520 | 2,046 | 2,759 | 0.74 | 92.0 | 79.9 | 1.15 | 96.3 | 90.9 | 1.06 |

Source: Same as Table 11

Table 13

ELDERLY COUPLES WITH INCOMES BELOW COSTS OF THREE BUDGETS FOR AN URBAN RETIRED COUPLE, BY RACE, 1975-77

(Data exclude persons in institutions)

| Subject | 1977 | | | 1976 | | | 1975 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White (percents only) | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White (percents only) | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White (percents only) |
| Total elderly couples[1/] (000) | 243 | 5,378 | (X) | 246 | 5,251 | (X) | 280 | 5,268 | (X) |
| With incomes below-- | | | | | | | | | |
| Lower budget: | | | | | | | | | |
| Number (000) | 98 | 893 | (X) | 92 | 884 | (X) | 142 | 978 | (X) |
| Percent | 40.3 | 16.6 | 2.43 | 37.4 | 16.8 | 2.23 | 50.7 | 18.6 | 2.73 |
| Intermediate budget: | | | | | | | | | |
| Number (000) | 157 | 2,057 | (X) | 160 | 1,977 | (X) | 189 | 2,113 | (X) |
| Percent | 64.6 | 38.2 | 1.69 | 65.0 | 37.6 | 1.73 | 67.5 | 40.1 | 1.68 |
| Higher budget: | | | | | | | | | |
| Number (000) | 200 | 3,374 | (X) | 202 | 3,220 | (X) | 247 | 3,368 | (X) |
| Percent | 82.3 | 62.7 | 1.31 | 82.1 | 61.3 | 1.34 | 88.2 | 63.9 | 1.38 |

(X) Not applicable.
1/ Two-person husband-wife families, husband 65+ years old.
Note: Couples as of March of following year.
Source: Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, Numbers 105, 114, and 118.

Table 14

COSTS OF THREE BUDGETS FOR AN URBAN RETIRED COUPLE, AUTUMN 1975 TO AUTUMN 1977

| Level of budget | Autumn 1977 | Autumn 1976 | Autumn 1975 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lower budget | $ 5,031 | $ 4,695 | $ 4,501 |
| Intermediate budget | $ 7,198 | $ 6,738 | $ 6,465 |
| Higher budget | $10,711 | $10,048 | $ 9,598 |

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Three Budgets for a Retired Couple, reports for each year shown above.

Table 15

TYPE OF INCOME IN 1977 FOR FAMILIES AND UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS 65+ YEARS OLD, BY RACE

(Data exclude persons in institutions)

| Type of income | Percent receiving specified type of income 1/ | | | Percent distribution of aggregate income 2/ | | | Percent receiving half or more of total income from specified type | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White |
| FAMILIES, HEAD 65+ | | | | | | | | | |
| Total 3/ | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 | (X) | (X) | (X) |
| Earnings | 59.4 | 47.1 | 1.26 | 45.6 | 34.1 | 1.34 | 53.8 | 48.1 | 1.12 |
| Wage and salary | 56.8 | 38.9 | 1.46 | 44.6 | 28.2 | 1.58 | (NA) | (NA) | (X) |
| Nonfarm self-employment | 4.9 | 8.9 | 0.55 | 1.0 | 4.5 | 0.22 | (NA) | (NA) | (X) |
| Farm self-employment | 1.9 | 5.8 | 0.33 | - | 1.5 | (X) | (NA) | (NA) | (X) |
| Income other than earnings | 97.2 | 99.0 | 0.98 | 54.4 | 65.9 | 0.83 | (NA) | (NA) | (X) |
| Transfer income | 95.6 | 94.1 | 1.02 | 44.4 | 35.2 | 1.26 | 63.0 | 54.4 | 1.16 |
| Social Security | 87.9 | 92.9 | 0.95 | 34.7 | 32.8 | 1.06 | 50.8 | 50.8 | 1.00 |
| Supplemental Security | 28.7 | 6.5 | 4.42 | 4.8 | 0.7 | 6.86 | 21.5 | 15.7 | 1.37 |
| Public assistance | 12.7 | 1.3 | 9.77 | 2.4 | 0.1 | 24.00 | 8.1 | 8.5 | 0.95 |
| Other transfer income 4/ | 11.2 | 10.2 | 1.10 | 2.4 | 1.5 | 1.60 | 17.1 | 6.6 | 2.59 |
| Other income | 31.8 | 78.6 | 0.40 | 10.1 | 30.7 | 0.33 | 14.8 | 23.8 | 0.62 |
| Dividends, interest, rent | 20.8 | 69.9 | 0.30 | 2.6 | 17.1 | 0.15 | (NA) | (NA) | (X) |
| Private and Government pensions, alimony, annuities, etc. | 17.7 | 41.8 | 0.42 | 7.5 | 13.5 | 0.56 | (NA) | (NA) | (X) |
| UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS 65+ | | | | | | | | | |
| Total 3/ | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 | (X) | (X) | (X) |
| Earnings | 18.6 | 17.3 | 1.08 | 12.9 | 12.5 | 1.03 | 37.8 | 34.2 | 1.11 |
| Wage and salary | 16.8 | 13.1 | 1.28 | 12.0 | 9.5 | 1.26 | (NA) | (NA) | (X) |
| Nonfarm self-employment | 1.2 | 2.2 | 0.55 | 0.9 | 1.4 | 0.64 | (NA) | (NA) | (X) |
| Farm self-employment | 0.9 | 2.5 | 0.36 | - | 1.6 | (X) | (NA) | (NA) | (X) |
| Income other than earnings | 98.1 | 98.9 | 0.99 | 87.1 | 87.5 | 1.00 | (NA) | (NA) | (X) |
| Transfer income | 96.6 | 95.4 | 1.01 | 73.2 | 50.0 | 1.46 | 89.6 | 73.0 | 1.23 |
| Social Security | 86.7 | 93.2 | 0.93 | 57.2 | 46.0 | 1.24 | 80.4 | 68.8 | 1.17 |
| Supplemental Security | 32.6 | 10.4 | 3.13 | 11.2 | 2.0 | 5.60 | 33.6 | 23.8 | 1.41 |
| Public assistance | 5.0 | 1.3 | 3.85 | 2.5 | 0.2 | 12.50 | (B) | 20.5 | (X) |
| Other transfer income 4/ | 6.1 | 7.1 | 0.86 | 2.2 | 1.8 | 1.22 | (B) | 20.6 | (X) |
| Other income | 28.2 | 67.0 | 0.42 | 14.0 | 37.5 | 0.37 | 18.1 | 31.7 | 0.57 |
| Dividends, interest, rent | 15.9 | 60.1 | 0.26 | 2.7 | 22.9 | 0.12 | (NA) | (NA) | (X) |
| Private and Government pensions, alimony, annuities, etc. | 15.4 | 27.2 | 0.57 | 11.2 | 14.5 | 0.77 | (NA) | (NA) | (X) |

(X) Not applicable.
(NA) Not available.
(B) Base less than 75,000 families or individuals.
- Less than 0.05 percent.
1/ Percents will not add to total because some units receive more than one type of income.
2/ Percents may not add to total because of rounding.
3/ Includes a small number of units not shown separately which reported no income in 1977.
4/ Unemployment and workmen's compensation, and veterans' payments.
SOURCE: Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 119, "Characteristics of the Population Below the Poverty Level: 1977," and unpublished data from the March 1978 Current Population Survey.

Table 16

FAMILIES AND UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS 60+ AND 65+ YEARS OLD WITH INCOME BELOW POVERTY AND NEAR-POVERTY LEVELS, BY SEX AND RACE, 1977

(Data exclude persons in institutions)

| Race, sex, and poverty status | Families | | | | Unrelated individuals | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Head 60+ | | Head 65+ | | 60+ | | 65+ | |
| | Number (000) | Percent | Number (000) | Percent | Number (000) | Percent | Number (000) | Percent |
| BELOW POVERTY LEVEL | | | | | | | | |
| Total | | | | | | | | |
| All races | 1,004 | 8.1 | 710 | 8.6 | 2,476 | 27.4 | 2,001 | 27.3 |
| Black | 291 | 27.8 | 214 | 31.5 | 448 | 51.4 | 362 | 53.0 |
| White | 683 | 6.1 | 472 | 6.3 | 2,004 | 24.8 | 1,617 | 24.6 |
| Male | | | | | | | | |
| All races | 796 | 7.3 | 551 | 7.8 | 503 | 23.3 | 386 | 23.5 |
| Black | 179 | 24.1 | 132 | 28.4 | 123 | 37.4 | 99 | 39.4 |
| White | 595 | 5.9 | 403 | 6.2 | 366 | 20.3 | 273 | 20.1 |
| Female | | | | | | | | |
| All races | 208 | 13.5 | 159 | 13.7 | 1,973 | 28.7 | 1,615 | 28.4 |
| Black | 112 | 37.1 | 82 | 38.3 | 325 | 60.1 | 263 | 60.8 |
| White | 89 | 7.3 | 70 | 7.5 | 1,638 | 26.1 | 1,344 | 25.8 |
| BELOW NEAR-POVERTY LEVEL 1/ | | | | | | | | |
| Total | | | | | | | | |
| All races | 1,706 | 13.7 | 1,261 | 15.4 | 3,986 | 44.1 | 3,376 | 46.1 |
| Black | 397 | 38.0 | 295 | 43.4 | 589 | 67.6 | 483 | 70.6 |
| White | 1,260 | 11.2 | 932 | 12.5 | 3,360 | 41.5 | 2,858 | 43.5 |
| Male | | | | | | | | |
| All races | 1,367 | 12.6 | 1,001 | 14.2 | 857 | 39.6 | 678 | 41.4 |
| Black | 249 | 33.6 | 187 | 40.3 | 183 | 55.6 | 149 | 59.4 |
| White | 1,082 | 10.8 | 793 | 12.1 | 650 | 36.1 | 505 | 37.2 |
| Female | | | | | | | | |
| All races | 339 | 22.0 | 260 | 22.3 | 3,130 | 45.5 | 2,699 | 47.5 |
| Black | 147 | 48.7 | 108 | 50.5 | 405 | 74.9 | 334 | 77.1 |
| White | 180 | 14.7 | 140 | 15.0 | 2,710 | 43.1 | 2,353 | 45.2 |

1/ Defined as 125% of poverty level.
Note: Families and unrelated individuals as of March 1978 survey.
Source: See Table 15.

Table 17

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF PERSONS 60+ AND 65+ YEARS OLD WITH INCOME BELOW POVERTY AND NEAR-POVERTY LEVELS, BY SEX AND RACE, 1977

(Data exclude persons in institutions)

| Status | Black | | | White | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number (000) | Percent of total | Percent distribution | Number (000) | Percent of total | Percent distribution |
| BELOW POVERTY LEVEL | | | | | | |
| 60+ | | | | | | |
| Total | 909 | 33.4 | 100.0 | 3,152 | 10.9 | 100.0 |
| Living alone or with nonrelatives | 448 | 51.4 | 49.3 | 2,004 | 24.8 | 63.6 |
| Male | 123 | 37.4 | 13.5 | 366 | 20.3 | 11.6 |
| Female | 325 | 60.1 | 35.8 | 1,638 | 26.1 | 52.0 |
| Living in a family unit | 461 | 24.9 | 50.7 | 1,148 | 5.5 | 36.4 |
| Male head | 179 | 24.1 | 19.7 | 595 | 5.9 | 18.9 |
| Female head | 112 | 37.1 | 12.3 | 89 | 7.3 | 2.8 |
| Wife of head | 122 | 25.1 | 13.4 | 399 | 5.4 | 12.7 |
| Other relatives of head | 48 | 15.0 | 5.3 | 65 | 3.0 | 2.1 |
| of male head | 16 | 10.1 | 1.8 | 41 | 2.9 | 1.3 |
| of female head | 32 | 19.9 | 3.5 | 24 | 3.2 | 0.8 |
| 65+ | | | | | | |
| Total | 701 | 36.3 | 100.0 | 2,426 | 11.9 | 100.0 |
| Living alone or with nonrelatives | 362 | 52.9 | 51.6 | 1,617 | 24.6 | 66.7 |
| Male | 99 | 39.4 | 14.1 | 273 | 20.1 | 11.3 |
| Female | 263 | 60.7 | 37.5 | 1,344 | 25.8 | 55.4 |
| Living in a family unit | 338 | 27.1 | 48.2 | [illegible] | 5.9 | 33.3 |
| Male head | 132 | 28.4 | 18.8 | 403 | 6.2 | 16.6 |
| Female head | 82 | 38.3 | 11.7 | 70 | 7.5 | 2.9 |
| Wife of head | 79 | 26.3 | 11.3 | 281 | 6.2 | 11.6 |
| Other relatives of head | 45 | 16.5 | 6.4 | 55 | 3.1 | 2.3 |
| of male head | 14 | 10.1 | 2.0 | 34 | 2.9 | 1.4 |
| of female head | 31 | 23.3 | 4.4 | 21 | 3.5 | 0.9 |
| BELOW NEAR-POVERTY LEVEL[1/] | | | | | | |
| 60+ | | | | | | |
| Total | 1,248 | 45.9 | 100.0 | 5,541 | 19.2 | 100.0 |
| Living alone or with nonrelatives | 589 | 67.6 | 47.2 | 3,360 | 41.6 | 60.6 |
| Male | 183 | 55.6 | 14.7 | 650 | 36.1 | 11.7 |
| Female | 405 | 74.7 | 32.5 | 2,710 | 43.1 | 48.9 |
| Living in a family unit | 658 | 35.6 | 52.7 | 2,180 | 10.5 | 39.3 |
| Male head | 249 | 33.4 | 19.9 | 1,082 | 10.8 | 19.5 |
| Female head | 147 | 48.7 | 11.8 | 178 | 14.6 | 3.2 |
| Wife of head | 179 | 36.8 | 14.3 | 796 | 10.8 | 14.4 |
| Other relatives of head | 83 | 26.0 | 6.7 | 133 | 5.7 | 2.2 |
| of male head | 25 | 15.7 | 2.0 | 63 | 4.5 | 1.1 |
| of female head | 58 | 36.0 | 4.6 | 60 | 8.1 | 1.1 |
| 65+ | | | | | | |
| Total | 977 | 50.6 | 100.0 | 4,452 | 21.9 | 100.0 |
| Living alone or with nonrelatives | 683 | 70.6 | 49.4 | 2,858 | 43.5 | 64.2 |
| Male | 149 | 59.4 | 15.3 | 505 | 37.2 | 11.3 |
| Female | 334 | 77.1 | 34.2 | 2,353 | 45.2 | 52.9 |
| Living in a family unit | 492 | 39.5 | 50.4 | 1,594 | 11.6 | 35.8 |
| Male head | 187 | 40.3 | 19.1 | 793 | 12.1 | 17.8 |
| Female head | 108 | 50.5 | 11.1 | 140 | 15.0 | 3.1 |
| Wife of head | 122 | 41.4 | 12.5 | 561 | 12.4 | 12.6 |
| Other relatives of head | 75 | 27.6 | 7.7 | 100 | 5.6 | 2.2 |
| of male head | 23 | 16.5 | 2.4 | 52 | 4.4 | 1.2 |
| of female head | 52 | 39.1 | 5.3 | 48 | 8.1 | 1.1 |

1/ Defined as 125% of poverty level.

Note: Families and unrelated individuals as of March 1978 survey. Percents may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

Source: See Table 15.

Table 18

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF PERSONS 25+ YEARS OLD, BY AGE AND RACE, MARCH 1978

(1978 data exclude persons in institutions)

| Sex and years of school completed | 25-44 years old | | | 45-59 years old | | | 60+ years old | | | 65+ years old | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White |
| **BOTH SEXES** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total (000's) | 6,021 | 49,698 | (X) | 3,218 | 30,375 | (X) | 2,720 | 28,896 | (X) | 1,929 | 20,316 | (X) |
| Percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 |
| None | 0.6 | 0.4 | 1.50 | 2.4 | 0.5 | 4.80 | 5.3 | 1.5 | 3.53 | 6.4 | 1.8 | 3.56 |
| Elementary: 1-4 years | 1.0 | 0.8 | 1.25 | 6.9 | 2.0 | 3.45 | 22.8 | 4.6 | 4.96 | 25.3 | 5.4 | 4.69 |
| 5-7 years | 4.7 | 2.6 | 1.81 | 15.8 | 5.7 | 2.77 | 25.3 | 12.3 | 2.06 | 26.1 | 13.7 | 1.91 |
| 8 years | 4.2 | 3.2 | 1.31 | 11.3 | 8.3 | 1.36 | 13.1 | 20.3 | 0.65 | 12.2 | 22.4 | 0.54 |
| High school: 1-3 years | 23.4 | 11.0 | 2.13 | 25.9 | 16.8 | 1.54 | 15.5 | 16.4 | 0.95 | 13.6 | 16.3 | 0.83 |
| 4 years | 39.0 | 40.7 | 0.96 | 25.0 | 40.3 | 0.62 | 11.5 | 27.1 | 0.42 | 10.2 | 22.8 | 0.45 |
| College: 1-3 years | 17.3 | 18.7 | 0.93 | 6.9 | 12.5 | 0.55 | 3.9 | 9.2 | 0.42 | 3.6 | 9.0 | 0.40 |
| 4+ years | 9.9 | 22.5 | 0.44 | 5.9 | 14.0 | 0.42 | 2.7 | 8.6 | 0.31 | 2.7 | 8.5 | 0.32 |
| Selected subgroups: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Less than 5 years | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.33 | 9.2 | 2.5 | 3.68 | 28.1 | 6.1 | 4.61 | 31.7 | 7.2 | 4.40 |
| High school graduates | 66.2 | 81.9 | 0.81 | 37.8 | 66.8 | 0.57 | 18.0 | 44.9 | 0.40 | 16.3 | 40.3 | 0.40 |
| Median years of school completed: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1978 | 12.4 | 12.8 | 0.97 | 10.5 | 12.4 | 0.85 | 7.6 | 10.8 | 0.70 | 7.1 | 10.1 | 0.70 |
| 1970 | 11.6 | 12.5 | 0.93 | 8.8 | 12.1 | 0.73 | 6.6 | 9.0 | 0.73 | 6.2 | 8.8 | 0.70 |
| **MALE** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total (000's) | 2,654 | 24,577 | (X) | 1,472 | 14,687 | (X) | 1,184 | 12,356 | (X) | 819 | 8,249 | (X) |
| Percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 |
| None | 0.8 | 0.4 | 2.00 | 4.1 | 0.4 | 10.25 | 7.4 | 1.5 | 4.93 | 8.9 | 1.8 | 4.94 |
| Elementary: 1-4 years | 1.3 | 0.9 | 1.44 | 8.3 | 2.2 | 3.77 | 26.0 | 5.1 | 5.10 | 28.6 | 6.1 | 4.69 |
| 5-7 years | 5.9 | 2.6 | 2.27 | 17.3 | 6.6 | 2.62 | 25.3 | 13.1 | 1.93 | 26.3 | 15.3 | 1.72 |
| 8 years | 4.0 | 3.5 | 1.14 | 10.5 | 9.3 | 1.13 | 11.2 | 20.6 | 0.54 | 9.5 | 22.6 | 0.42 |
| High school: 1-3 years | 21.3 | 9.8 | 2.17 | 22.1 | 16.1 | 1.37 | 12.0 | 15.6 | 0.77 | 10.3 | 15.5 | 0.66 |
| 4 years | 37.5 | 35.8 | 1.05 | 24.3 | 34.0 | 0.71 | 11.6 | 24.9 | 0.47 | 10.0 | 20.0 | 0.50 |
| College: 1-3 years | 18.6 | 19.7 | 0.94 | 8.5 | 12.9 | 0.66 | 4.1 | 9.0 | 0.46 | 4.0 | 8.6 | 0.47 |
| 4+ years | 10.7 | 27.3 | 0.39 | 5.0 | 18.5 | 0.27 | 2.5 | 10.3 | 0.24 | 2.6 | 10.2 | 0.25 |
| Selected subgroups: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Less than 5 years | 2.1 | 1.3 | 1.62 | 12.4 | 2.6 | 4.77 | 33.4 | 6.6 | 5.06 | 37.5 | 7.9 | 4.75 |
| High school graduates | 66.8 | 82.9 | 0.81 | 37.8 | 65.5 | 0.58 | 18.2 | 44.1 | 0.41 | 16.7 | 38.7 | 0.43 |
| Median years of school completed: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1978 | 12.4 | 12.9 | 0.96 | 10.3 | 12.5 | 0.82 | 6.9 | 10.6 | 0.65 | 6.3 | 9.7 | 0.65 |
| 1970 | 11.4 | 12.5 | 0.91 | 8.5 | 12.1 | 0.70 | 6.0 | 8.8 | 0.68 | 5.6 | 8.6 | 0.65 |
| **FEMALE** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total (000's) | 3,366 | 25,121 | (X) | 1,747 | 15,688 | (X) | 1,537 | 16,540 | (X) | 1,111 | 12,067 | (X) |
| Percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 |
| None | 0.4 | 0.3 | 1.33 | 1.0 | 0.5 | 2.00 | 3.7 | 1.5 | 2.47 | 4.5 | 1.8 | 2.50 |
| Elementary: 1-4 years | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.00 | 5.7 | 1.8 | 3.17 | 20.3 | 4.2 | 4.83 | 23.0 | 4.9 | 4.69 |
| 5-7 years | 3.7 | 2.7 | 1.37 | 14.4 | 4.9 | 2.94 | 25.4 | 11.6 | 2.19 | 26.0 | 12.6 | 2.06 |
| 8 years | 4.2 | 3.0 | 1.40 | 12.1 | 7.4 | 1.64 | 14.5 | 20.2 | 0.72 | 14.2 | 22.4 | 0.63 |
| High school: 1-3 years | 25.1 | 12.2 | 2.06 | 29.1 | 17.4 | 1.67 | 18.2 | 17.0 | 1.07 | 16.1 | 16.8 | 0.96 |
| 4 years | 40.3 | 45.6 | 0.88 | 25.5 | 46.2 | 0.55 | 11.4 | 28.8 | 0.40 | 10.2 | 24.7 | 0.41 |
| College: 1-3 years | 16.2 | 17.6 | 0.92 | 5.6 | 12.1 | 0.46 | 3.7 | 9.4 | 0.39 | 3.2 | 9.3 | 0.34 |
| 4+ years | 9.3 | 17.8 | 0.52 | 6.6 | 9.8 | 0.67 | 2.7 | 7.4 | 0.36 | 2.7 | 7.4 | 0.36 |
| Selected subgroups: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Less than 5 years | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.09 | 6.7 | 2.3 | 2.91 | 24.0 | 5.7 | 4.21 | 27.5 | 6.8 | 4.04 |
| High school graduates | 65.8 | 81.0 | 0.81 | 37.7 | 68.0 | 0.55 | 17.9 | 45.6 | 0.39 | 16.1 | 41.5 | 0.39 |
| Median years of school completed: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1978 | 12.4 | 12.7 | 0.98 | 10.7 | 12.4 | 0.86 | 8.0 | 10.9 | 0.73 | 7.6 | 10.3 | 0.74 |
| 1970 | 11.7 | 12.4 | 0.94 | 9.1 | 12.1 | 0.75 | 7.0 | 9.2 | 0.76 | 6.6 | 8.9 | 0.74 |

(X) Not applicable.

Note: Percents may not add to total because of rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census, unpublished data from the March 1978 Current Population Survey, and 1970 Census of Population, Volume I, Part D, "Detailed Characteristics," U.S. Summary.

Table 19

SELECTED MEASURES OF HEALTH LIMITATIONS AND DISABILITY
FOR THE POPULATION 45+ YEARS OLD, BY RACE AND AGE

(Data exclude persons in institutions)

| Type of limitation or disability | 45-64 years | | | 65+ years | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White |
| LIMITATION OF ACTIVITY, 1977 [1] | | | | | | |
| Total, percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1.00 |
| % limited in activity | 29.6 | 22.5 | 1.32 | 54.9 | 42.0 | 1.31 |
| % limited in major activity | 25.8 | 17.9 | 1.44 | 50.9 | 36.1 | 1.41 |
| % limited in amount or kind of major activity | 15.6 | 12.0 | 1.30 | 23.6 | 19.8 | 1.19 |
| % unable to carry on major activity | 10.1 | 5.9 | 1.71 | 27.3 | 16.3 | 1.67 |
| % not limited in major activity | 3.8 | 4.6 | 0.83 | 4.0 | 5.8 | 0.69 |
| % not limited in activity | 70.4 | 77.5 | 0.91 | 45.1 | 58.0 | 0.78 |
| LIMITATION OF MOBILITY, 1972 [1] | | | | | | |
| Total, percent | 100.0 [2] | 100.0 | 1.00 | 100.0 [2] | 100.0 | 1.00 |
| % limited in mobility | 8.6 | 4.4 | 1.95 | 23.7 | 17.0 | 1.39 |
| % has trouble getting around alone | 4.3 | 2.2 | 1.95 | 7.7 | 5.6 | 1.38 |
| % needs help in getting around | 1.6 | 1.0 | 1.60 | 8.3 | 6.5 | 1.28 |
| % confined to the house | 2.7 | 1.2 | 2.25 | 7.7 | 4.9 | 1.57 |
| % not limited in mobility | 91.4 | 95.6 | 0.96 | 76.3 | 83.0 | 0.92 |
| DAYS OF RESTRICTED ACTIVITY, 1977 | | | | | | |
| Average number of days per year | 35.5 | 23.1 | 1.54 | 59.6 | 36.4 | 1.64 |
| DAYS OF BED DISABILITY, 1977 | | | | | | |
| Average number of days per year | 13.9 | 7.9 | 1.76 | 24.6 | 11.7 | 2.10 |

1/ Data refer to limitations due to chronic conditions.
2/ Data on limitation of mobility are for all nonwhite races.
Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Vital and Health Statistics, Series 10, No. 96, "Limitation of Activity and Mobility Due to Chronic Conditions: United States--1972;" No. 126, "Current Estimates from the Health Interview Survey: United States--1977;" and unpublished data from the 1977 Health Interview Survey.

Table 20

CRIMINAL VICTIMIZATION OF ELDERLY PERSONS AND HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE OF CRIME AND AGE AND RACE OF PERSON OR HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: 1977

| Type of crime and age of head or person | Number of crimes | | Rate per 1,000 households or persons | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Black | White | Black | White | Ratio: Black to White |
| HOUSEHOLD CRIMES | | | | | |
| Head 50-64 Years Old | | | | | |
| Total crimes reported .. | 678,700 | 5,664,800 | 368.4 | 343.1 | 1.07 |
| Burglary ..... | 186,100 | 1,085,100 | 101.0 | 65.7 | 1.54 |
| Larceny 1/ ..... | 452,600 | 4,344,200 | 245.7 | 263.1 | 0.93 |
| Less than $50 ..... | 216,200 | 2,499,000 | 117.4 | 151.3 | 0.78 |
| $50 or more ..... | 177,500 | 1,375,600 | 96.4 | 83.3 | 1.16 |
| Auto theft ..... | 39,800 | 235,400 | 21.6 | 14.3 | 1.51 |
| Head 65+ Years Old | | | | | |
| Total crimes reported .. | 264,600 | 2,094,600 | 192.0 | 152.8 | 1.26 |
| Burglary ..... | 80,900 | 669,500 | 58.7 | 48.8 | 1.20 |
| Larceny 1/ ..... | 181,100 | 1,372,500 | 131.4 | 100.1 | 1.31 |
| Less than $50 ..... | 98,000 | 832,200 | 71.1 | 60.7 | 1.17 |
| $50 or more ..... | 58,900 | 332,000 | 42.7 | 24.2 | 1.76 |
| Auto theft ..... | 2,800 | 52,600 | 2.0 | 3.8 | 0.53 |
| PERSONAL CRIMES | | | | | |
| Head 50-64 Years Old | | | | | |
| Total crimes reported .. | 257,300 | 1,969,700 | 88.3 | 68.4 | 1.29 |
| Crimes of violence 2/ ..... | 83,100 | 320,000 | 28.5 | 11.1 | 2.57 |
| Robbery ..... | 52,500 | 82,500 | 18.0 | 2.9 | 6.21 |
| Assault ..... | 30,700 | 233,900 | 10.5 | 8.1 | 1.30 |
| Crimes of theft ..... | 174,200 | 1,649,700 | 59.8 | 57.3 | 1.04 |
| With contact 3/ ..... | 9,800 | 68,000 | 3.4 | 2.4 | 1.42 |
| Without contact ..... | 164,500 | 1,581,600 | 56.4 | 54.9 | 1.03 |
| Head 65+ Years Old | | | | | |
| Total crimes reported .. | 80,800 | 610,400 | 40.4 | 30.1 | 1.34 |
| Crimes of violence 2/ ..... | 26,900 | 141,400 | 13.4 | 7.0 | 1.91 |
| Robbery ..... | 15,800 | 60,000 | 7.9 | 3.0 | 2.63 |
| Assault ..... | 11,100 | 78,700 | 5.5 | 3.9 | 1.41 |
| Crimes of theft ..... | 53,900 | 469,000 | 27.0 | 23.1 | 1.17 |
| With contact 3/ ..... | 18,000 | 33,500 | 9.0 | 1.7 | 5.29 |
| Without contact ..... | 35,900 | 435,500 | 17.9 | 21.5 | 0.83 |

1/ Includes attempted larceny and larceny with amount of theft unknown, which are not shown separately.

2/ Includes rape, which is not shown separately.

3/ Includes purse snatching and pocket picking.

Source: Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, unpublished data from the 1977 National Crime Survey.

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